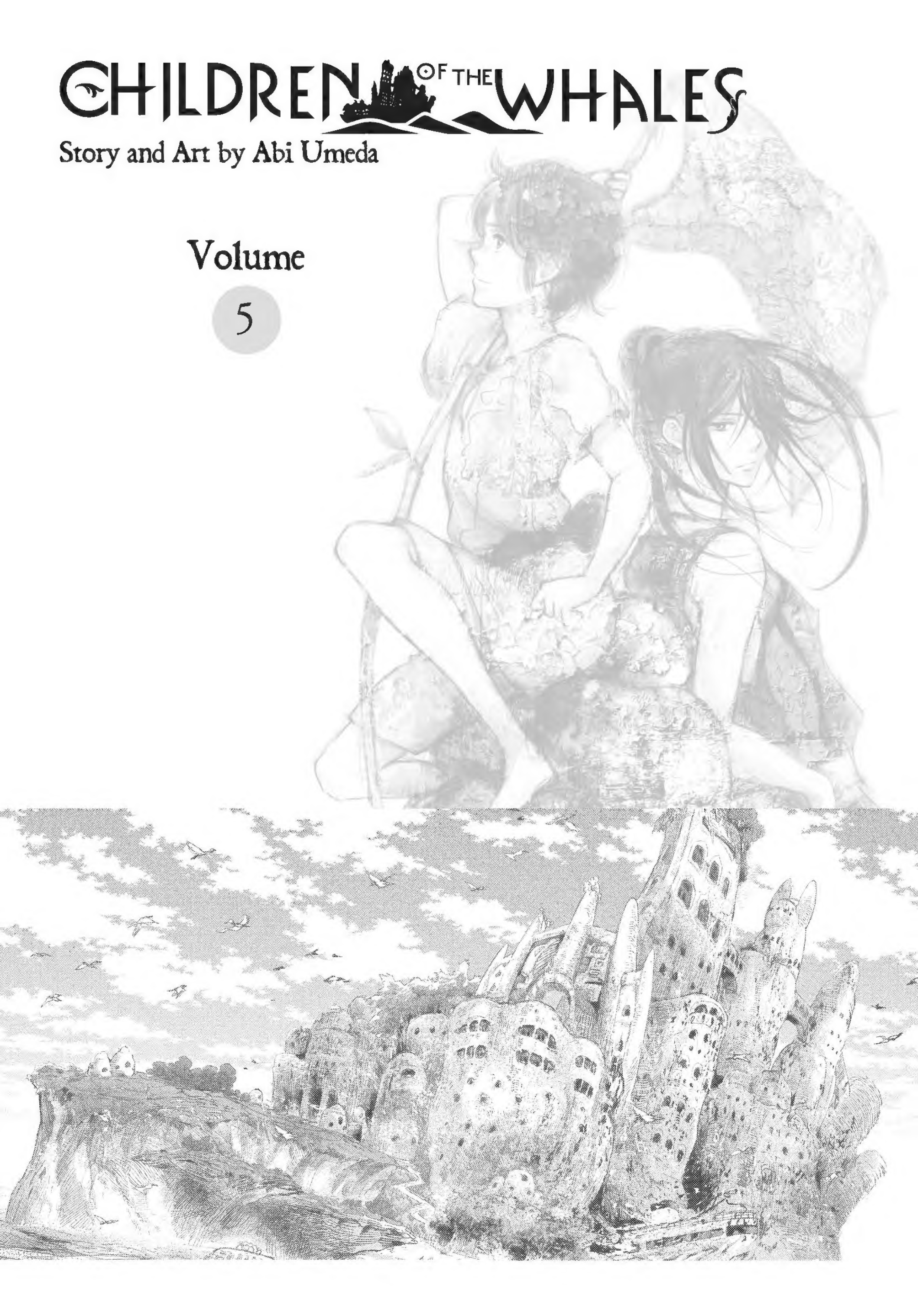


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
5
ABI UMEDA


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
Story and Art by Abi Umeda
Volume
5

On the Mud Whale



Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)

A very powerful thymia user. The recent death of his friend Nibi has caused his powers to run wild.



Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)

A girl from the Allied Empire who comes aboard the Mud Whale. She has a connection with Chakuro.



Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)

The young archivist of the Mud Whale. He has hypergraphia, a disorder that compels him to record everything.



Aíma
(???)

She appears to Chakuro after Neri disappears. She has tried to guide Chakuro, but...



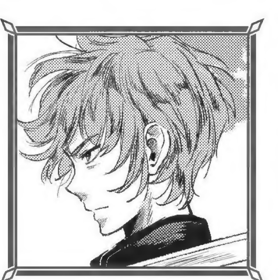
Neri
(???)

A girl with superhuman powers who disappears when Aíma appears.



Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)

The new mayor of the Mud Whale. He is a very compassionate person who hopes to find a remedy for the shortened life spans of the Marked.



Kuchiba
(Unmarked, 39 years old)

An adviser to the mayor. He had feelings for the previous mayor, Taisha.



Ginshu
(Marked, 16 years old)

Serves in the Vigilante Corps. She played an important role in the battle against Skyros and survived the mission.



Commander
(Marked, 25 years old)

Head of the Vigilante Corps. He defeated Liontari, a powerful apātheia soldier, during the battle against the Skyros forces.

???



Rochalízo

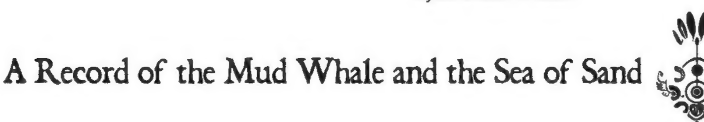
He appears out of the blue while the Mud Whale is recovering from the battle with Skyros. Who is he, and what does he want?

The Invaders



Orca

Commander of the apātheia forces that attacked the Mud Whale. He retreated when the battleship Skyros was sank. He is Lykos's older brother.



A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand

Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

The Marked are those who can wield thymia, a psychic power fueled by emotion. They die young, around the age of 30. Those who have no thymia are called the Unmarked.

Chakuro, the Mud Whale archivist, meets Lykos one day on an abandoned island-ship found floating near theirs. Although she eventually opens up to the children on the Mud Whale, her homeland, the Allied Empire, is determined to execute everyone on the Mud Whale as descendants of exiled criminals.

A sudden attack by imperial forces leaves the Mud Whale reeling from the many casualties. The newly appointed mayor, Suou, along with Chakuro, Ouni and others, decides to fight back against the coming invasion of the imperial battleship Skyros.

On the day of the battle, Chakuro, Ouni and an assault team infiltrate Skyros on a mission to destroy its Nous. When Ouni's best friend Nibi is killed in action, it triggers a rampage of Ouni's thymia, destroying the Nous Skyros and sending the imperial forces into retreat.

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."

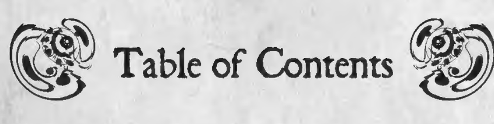


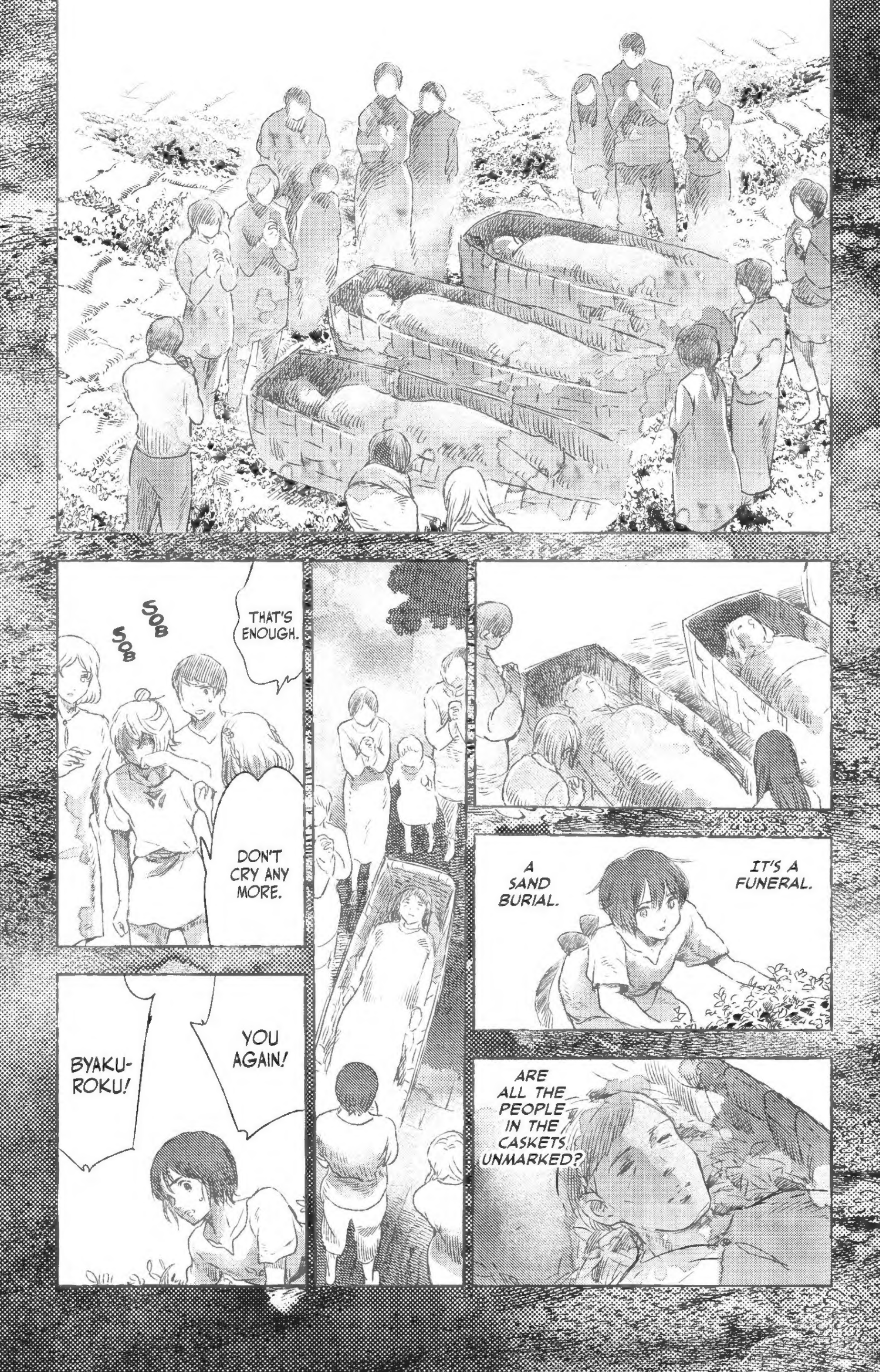
Table of Contents




ARCHIVIST...
...I'LL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW!
THESE CHÉRIS WILL TAKE YOU.
DIVE DEEP LIKE THE ROOTS OF TREES, BEYOND TIME.
FÁLAINA HAS SEEN EVERY RECORD...
...OF EVERY PERSON WHO HAS LIVED HERE.


Chapter 17
Travelers from Afar


SKSH
WHERE AM I?
IS THIS THE MUD WHALE?
ZSSSH
THERE ARE ONLY TWO TOWERS...
...AND THE RESIDENTIAL AREA IS SO SMALL.
RUSTLE
OH!

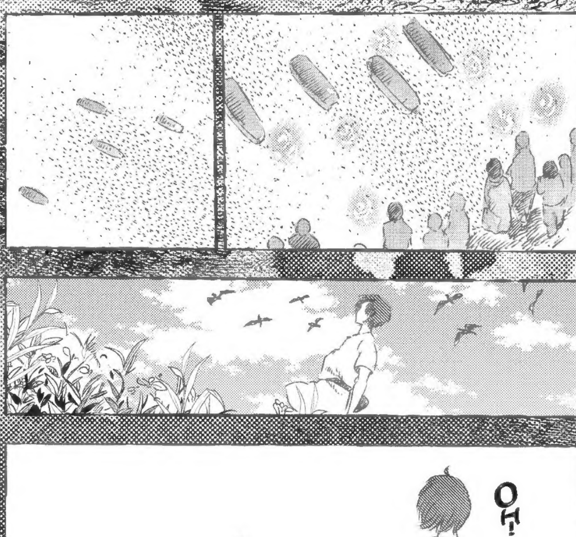

IT'S A FUNERAL.
A SAND BURIAL.
ARE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE CASKETS UNMARKED?
THAT'S ENOUGH.
SOB
SOB
DON'T CRY ANY MORE.
YOU AGAIN!
BYAKU-ROKU!


BUT...
CLASP YOUR HANDS TIGHT, BYAKU-ROKU.
TRY TO CONTAIN YOUR SORROW.
YES, YOU MUST ALWAYS REMAIN CALM.
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE BEING PERCEIVED AS...
...HIDEOUS OR DOOMED BECAUSE OF OUR HEARTS.
WE *CAN* CONTROL OUR EMOTIONS.
WE CAN *LIVE* WITH EMOTIONS.
THAT IS WHO WE ARE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
W...

AAAAGH!

SIGH...






UH, UM...
...
WHO...
...ARE YOU?
WELL, I, UM...
...MY MUD WHALE HAS FIVE TOWERS AND...
HUH??
WHO ARE YOU?



I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING YOU BEFORE.
WHO ARE YOUR PAR-ENTS?
HOW DID YOU GET ON THIS SHIP?
...
OH, YOU CAN'T SPEAK ...?
SO THAT'S...
...NERI?
WOBBLE
THUD


DASH
IF YOU'RE FROM OUTSIDE, PLEASE TELL ME.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
I CAME TO THIS ISLAND AS A BABY.
THEY SAY WE'VE BEEN EXILED HERE BECAUSE WE'RE CRIMINALS.
TELL ME...
IS IT SO BAD TO HAVE EMOTIONS?
WILL WE EVER BE FORGIVEN AND SET FREE?


WAIT!
WAIT...
SHIMMER
WAIT...
...NERI.

While I was drifting on the sea of time...

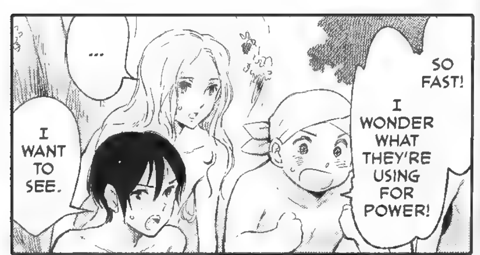
...the new ambassadors from the outside world were drawing closer to the Mud Whale.

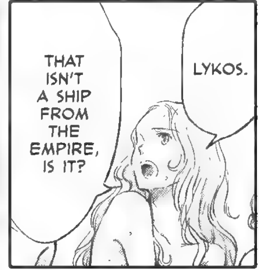
ZS

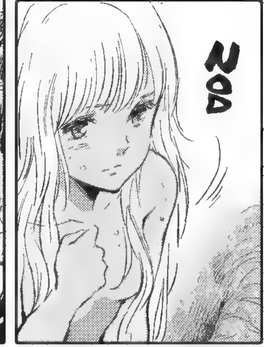
SSH




THEY'RE GOING TO DOCK SOON.


SO FAST!
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE USING FOR POWER!
...
I WANT TO SEE.

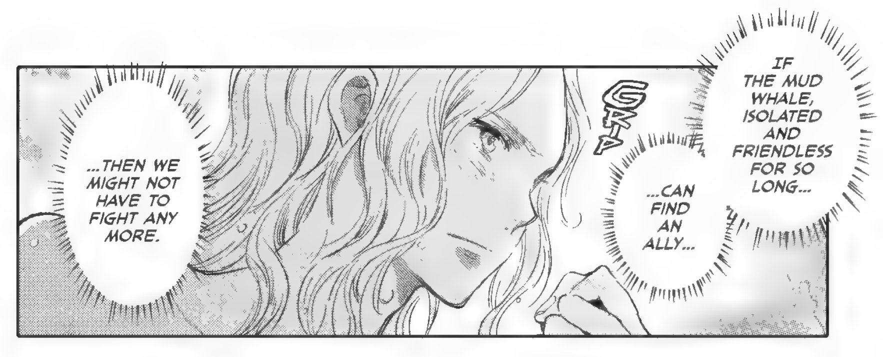

LYKOS.
THAT ISN'T A SHIP FROM THE EMPIRE, IS IT?

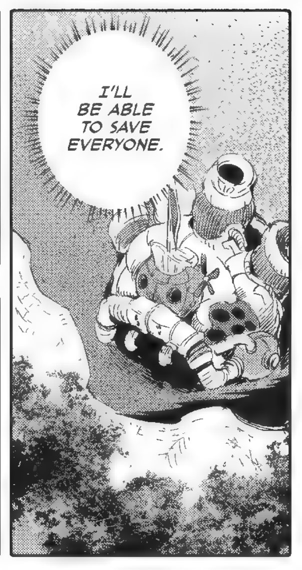

NOD

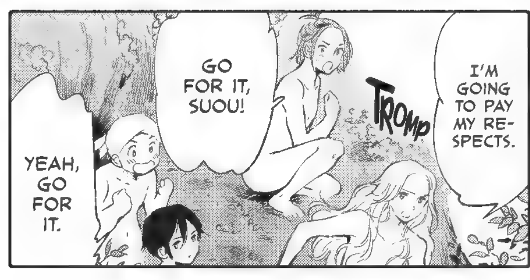

IF WE...
...CAN FIND ALLIES FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
...THEN WE MIGHT FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS CRISIS.
WE VOWED TO FIGHT UNTIL WE DID.

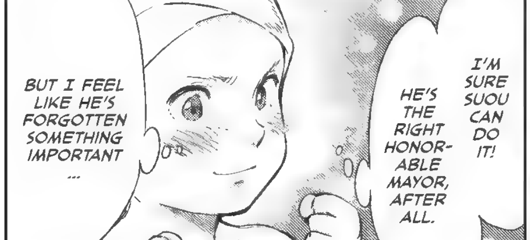

ALLIES FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
YOU'RE SAYING THAT SHIP MIGHT BE THEM?


IT'S WORTH HOPING FOR.


IF THE MUD WHALE, ISOLATED AND FRIENDLESS FOR SO LONG...
GRIP
...CAN FIND AN ALLY...
...THEN WE MIGHT NOT HAVE TO FIGHT ANY MORE.

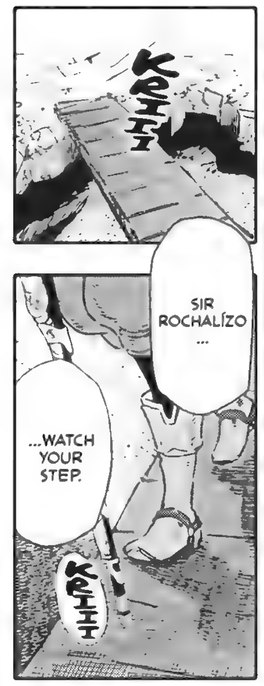

I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE.

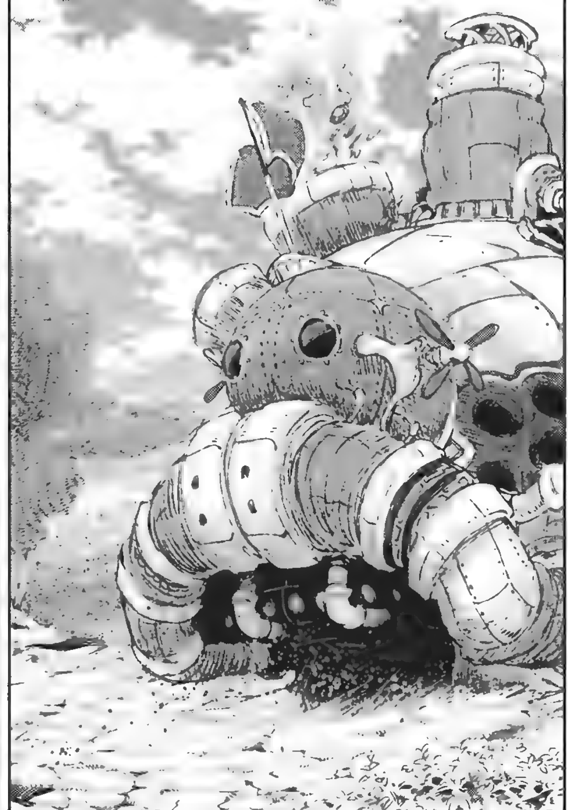

I'M GOING TO PAY MY RE-SPECTS.
TROMP
GO FOR IT, SUOU!
YEAH, GO FOR IT.


I'M SURE SUOU CAN DO IT!
HE'S THE RIGHT HONOR-ABLE MAYOR, AFTER ALL.
BUT I FEEL LIKE HE'S FORGOTTEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT ...


GINSHU, LET'S SHADOW HIM WITHOUT SPOOKING THEM.


RUSTLE
HEY, RO, EYES FRONT!
FWAK
BUT I CAN'T SEE...
RUSTLE


KRIIII
SIR ROCHALÍZO ...
...WATCH YOUR STEP.
KRIIII



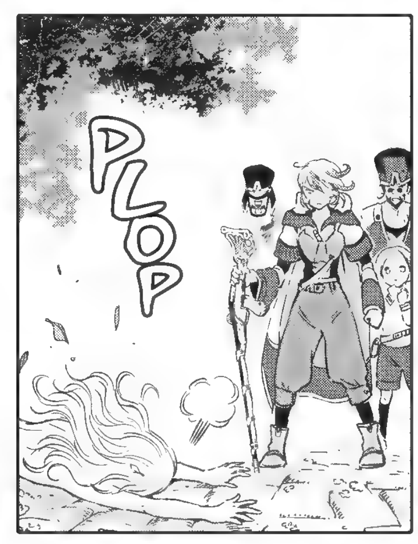

ZSSSH
SIR ROCHA-LÍZO, BE CAREFUL ...
DON'T GET AHEAD OF US.
SIR ROCHALÍZO ...!!
AHHH...


THIS ISLAND ...
...SMELLS LIKE MILK!


THIS IS AN UNCHARTED LAND, NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY ANYONE FROM OUR COUNTRY.
WHO KNOWS WHAT DANGER LURKS HERE?

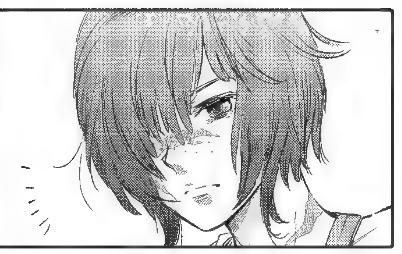
YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR ROCHALÍZO. THIS ISLAND DOES SMELL...
SNIFF
SNIFF
...LIKE MILK.

SIR ROCHALÍZO...
...BE CAREFUL.

TROMP
TROMP
WILD ANIMALS, UNCIVILIZED LOCALS...
RUSTLE
GASP!

PLOP


OWWW...
Uncoordinated
SIR RO-CHALÍZO, D-D-D-D-DANGER!
A NATIVE.
TMP
STAY BACK.
SHU
STAND!
I'M GOING TO SEARCH YOU FOR WEAPONS.
CAN YOU SPEAK?
WHAT A TALL WOMAN.


AH, UM...




WELCOME TO THE MUD WHALE!
MY NAME IS SUOU— I'M THE MAYOR HERE.
!

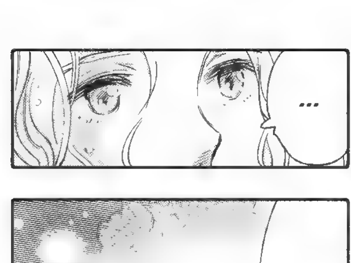

HAVE YOU CROSSED THE SEA OF SAND?
DO YOU HAVE ANY SICK OR INJURED?
STAGGER
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FONÍ?
OH!

YOU HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING THE SON OF THE DUKE OF AMONLOGIA, FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF SUIDELASIA...

...ROCHALÍZO ANASTENAGMÓS NEIYE-IMISUKIN EMARIKA ANTÍPATROS APÓ AMONLOGIA.

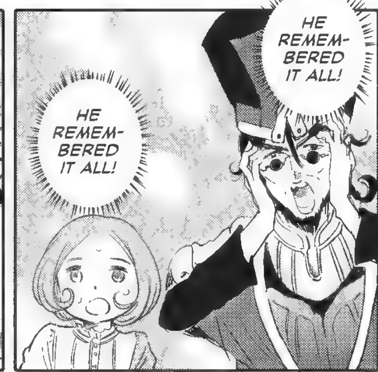





...


YOU ARE HONORED TO MEET ME.


NICE TO MEET YOU, SIR RO-CHALÍZO ANAS-TENAG-MÓS...
...NEIYE-IMISUKIN EMARIKA ANTÍPATROS APÓ AMONLOGIA.


HE REMEM-BERED IT ALL!
HE REMEM-BERED IT ALL!


WAY TO GO SUOU!


HE NEEDS A NICKNAME.
That's too long.

FIRST CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE WHO COULD BECOME OUR ALLIES.

I HAVE TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.

THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE IS RIDING ON IT.

GLINT

I CAN'T SHOW EVEN A SPECK OF DISRESPECT.

YOU...

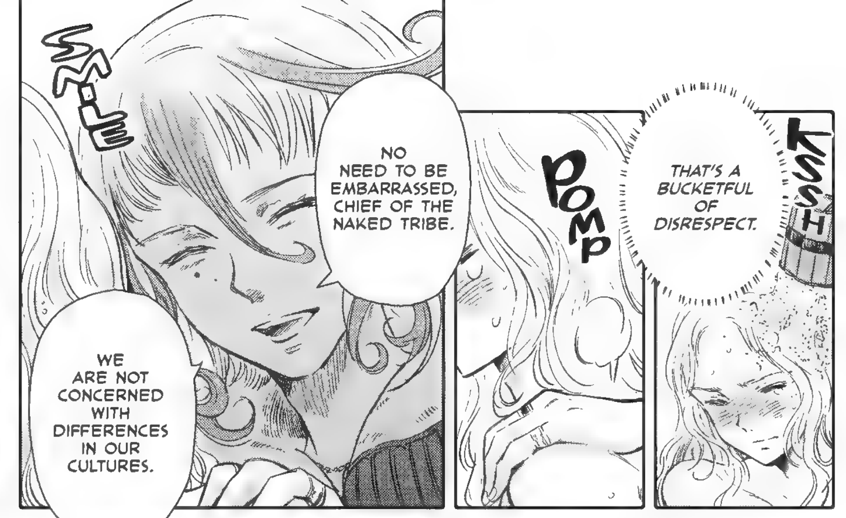
...SAID YOU ARE THE MAYOR OF THIS ISLAND. THAT MAKES YOU THE CHIEF.

GET READY TO WELCOME US IMMEDI-ATELY...

...CHIEF OF THE NAKED TRIBE.

NA-KED... TRIBE?

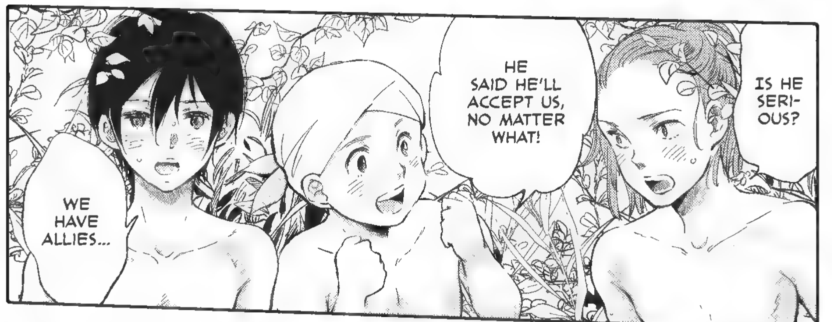




FLAP
FLAP
...WE ACCEPT YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE.




REALLY?
YOU WILL ACCEPT IT ALL...
...EVEN IF WE WERE EXILED AS CRIMINALS ...?

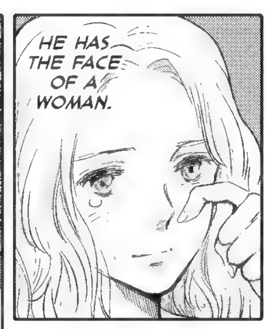

IS HE SERI-OUS?
HE SAID HE'LL ACCEPT US, NO MATTER WHAT!
WE HAVE ALLIES...


I'M SO HAPPY, LYKKI!
THERE REALLY WERE ALLIES WAITING FOR US IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!


BUT ...
...IF HE IS THE CHIEF ...

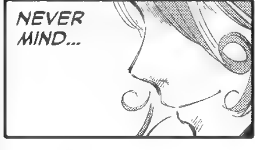

...THEN DO ALL THE WOMEN...
...OF HIS NAKED TRIBE BELONG TO HIM?


LIKE THOSE ADORABLE MAIDENS OVER THERE?

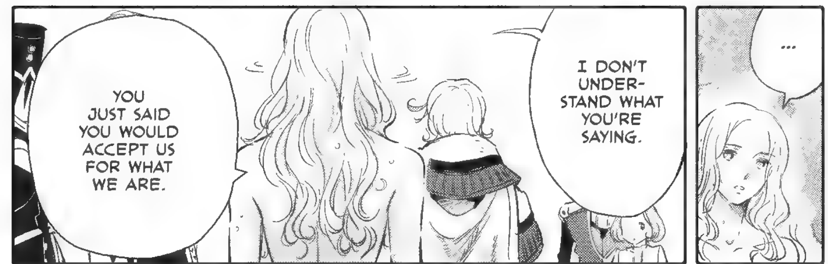

HE HAS THE FACE OF A WOMAN.

THIS ISLAND WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF MY LEGEND.
WATCH OUT, MY DEAR OLDER BROTHERS!


THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE IMPERTINENCE I'LL OVERLOOK.
GRIP


NEVER MIND...





I CAN'T DISCUSS THE DETAILS NOW...

...BUT THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND ARE IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS THAT THREATENS THEIR LIVES AND DIGNITY.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN.

DON'T USE THE WORD "*SUBJECT*" ON THIS ISLAND, PLEASE.



EVEN IF YOUR WORLD IS HUNDREDS OF TIMES BIGGER THAN OUR ISLAND...
...PLEASE VIEW US AS YOUR EQUALS.
KASHONK
RUUUMB
KASHNNK
SHNK

FWIP

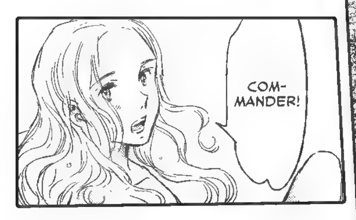
SHSHING




HOW ARE WE "EQUALS"...
...YOU USELESS MONKEY?
LET ME SHOW YOU IGNORANT FOOLS THE POWER OF SUIDELASIAN WEAPONS!
BOW DOWN BEFORE THE MIGHT OF AMONLOGIA!!
WZZZ
?


SNATCH
SNAG
SNAG
YANK

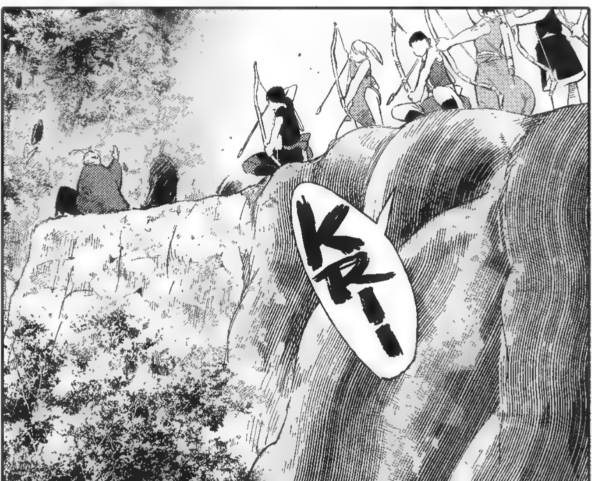

IT'S NOT ME!
THIS IS...
THIS IS THE POWER.
OH DEAR.

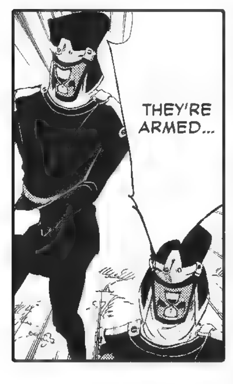

COM-
MANDER!




WILL YOUR GOOD NATURE NEVER BE CURED?
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY OF THEM, AND THEY DON'T SEEM ABLE TO USE THYMIA.


IF THEY APPEAR TO BE A THREAT...
FWSH
...YOU JUST NEED TO CAPTURE THEM.

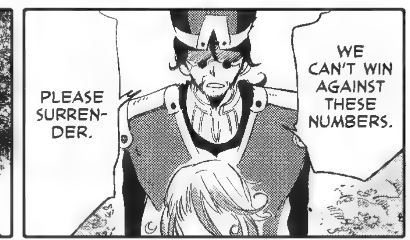

KRII


THEY'RE ARMED...

SIR ROCHALÍZO.

...

SIR ROCHALÍZO.










YOU NEED TO DECIDE, AND *YOU* NEED TO NEGOTIATE.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BOW BEFORE HIM.


DO SOME-THING...
...CHAS-MOURITÓ!
HIDE
WHA-AAT?


DO... SOME... THING!
OWWW.
PINCH
PINCH
PINCH
PINCH


UH... UMM...
ERRR ...
GRRRUMBL

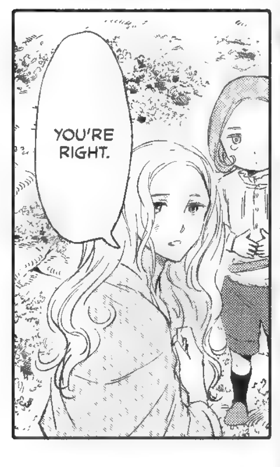

HEY...
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
MAYBE THEY'RE IN TROUBLE.

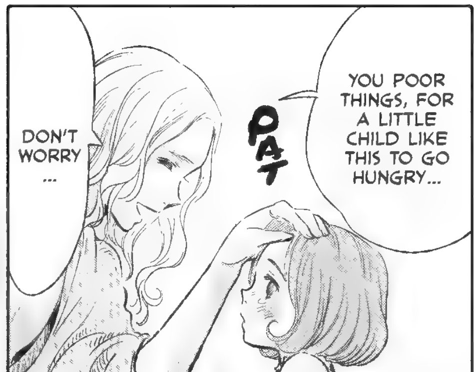

YOU'RE RIGHT...
WITH SUCH A LITTLE SHIP, IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO RUN OUT OF WATER, FOOD AND SUPPLIES.


ARE YOU CALLING OUR SHIP LITTLE?
SIR ROCHA-LÍZO...

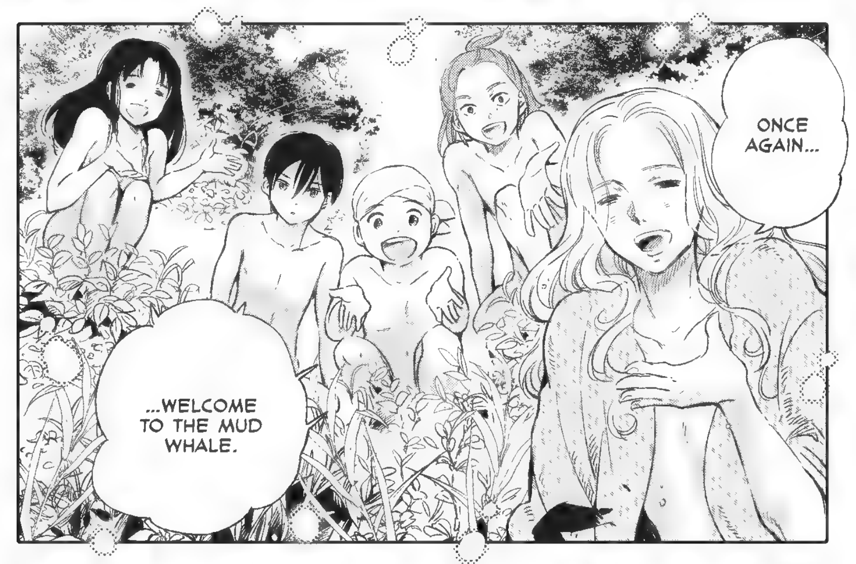

PEOPLE GET IRRITABLE WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY.
MAYBE HE WAS ACTING LIKE THAT BECAUSE HE WANTED FOOD.
HUH?

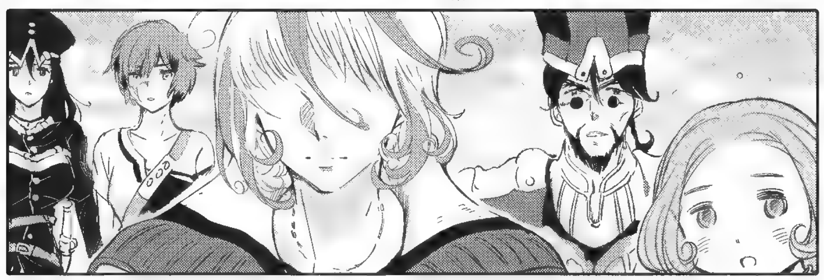

GINSHU...
THEY ARE...
THEIR COUNTRY IS...


YOU'RE RIGHT.


YOU POOR THINGS, FOR A LITTLE CHILD LIKE THIS TO GO HUNGRY...
PAT
DON'T WORRY ...

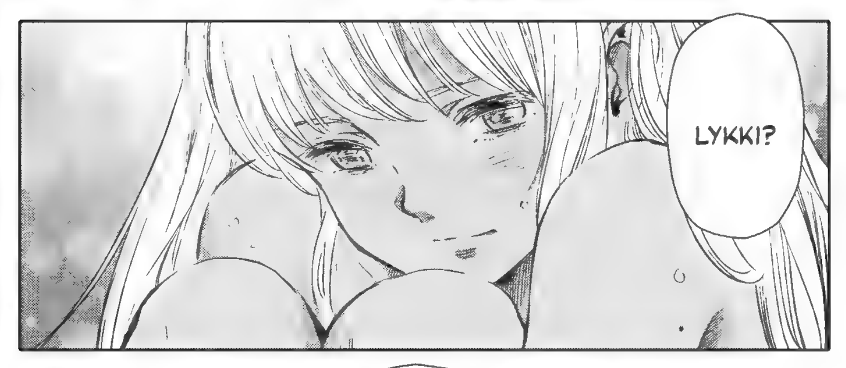

WE'LL PREPARE SOME FOOD RIGHT NOW.


ONCE AGAIN...
...WELCOME TO THE MUD WHALE.



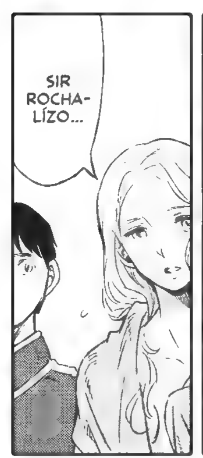

OH DEAR.


WELL THAT WORKED OUT.
WHY ARE YOU HIDING, LYKKI?


LYKKI?


...
FWIP


WE DON'T ACCEPT YOUR HOSPITALITY.

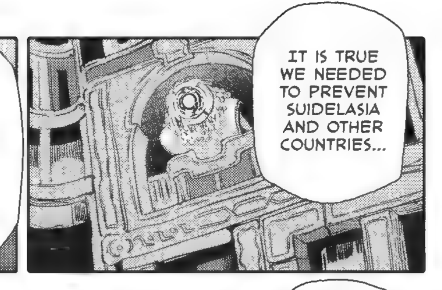

SIR ROCHA-LÍZO...

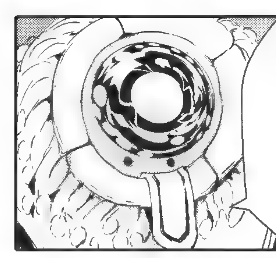


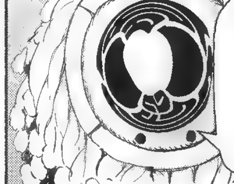
...
YOU SAID THAT A CRISIS THREATENED THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND.
WE WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR HOSPITALITY *FOR FREE*.
IF SOMETHING IS TORMENTING YOU, THEN WE...
...BESTOW ON YOU OUR WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE!
And so a new voyage of the Mud Whale begins.

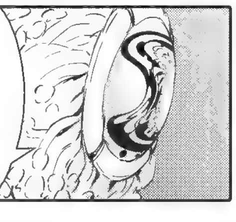

Our ancestors were scorned by their countrymen and sent in exile to a sea of sand.
IF WE ARE TO BE QUARANTINED FROM THE WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE EMOTIONS...
...IF WE ARE TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT NOTICE...
TELL ME...
...WHAT IS THE POINT OF US EVEN EXISTING?
OH!
I wonder where we're headed next?

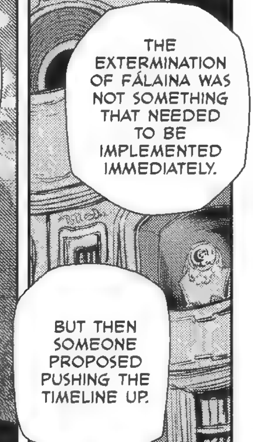

GOOON
G
GOOONG
I AM NOT CARRYING ANY WEAPONS.


IT IS TRUE WE NEEDED TO PREVENT SUIDELASIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES...
...FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT THE FÁLAINA CRIMINALS WHOM WE EXILED TO THE SEA OF SAND.




BUT THE ROUTE TO FÁLAINA IS BORDERED BY FIERCE CURRENTS.


YES, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A SHIP WITHOUT A NOUS TO APPROACH IT.


THE EXTERMINATION OF FÁLAINA WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT NEEDED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY.
BUT THEN SOMEONE PROPOSED PUSHING THE TIMELINE UP.


THAT WAS YOU...
...ORCA.

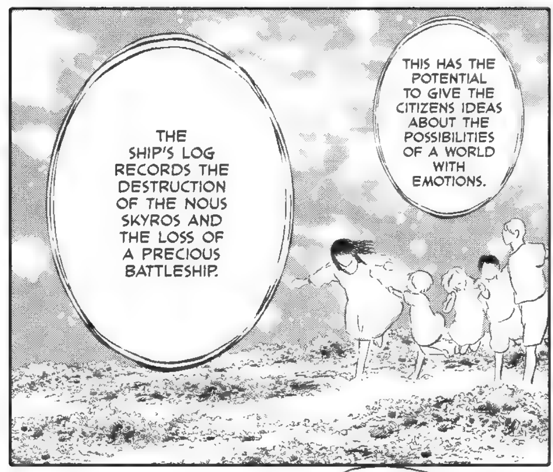

YOU SAID...
...THAT SINCE THE EMPIRE WAS UNDER THREAT FROM THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF OTHER COUNTRIES...


...IT WAS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO EXERT COMPLETE CONTROL OVER OUR CITIZENS' EMOTIONS.


FUNDAMENTALLY, THE EXILE OF THE CRIMINALS 93 YEARS AGO WAS MEANT TO BE A LESSON FOR THE REST OF THE CITIZENRY.
THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE STORY WAS TO BE THE EXTER-MINATION OF FÁLAINA.

THE WORLD BEFORE THE RAIN OF KATHARTÍRIO WAS TORN BY CONFLICT AND EMOTION.
THE HELL ON EARTH EMBODIED BY THE SHIP OF EXILE FÁLAINA WOULD ACT AS A WARNING TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PRESENT DAY.
AFTER GOING INTO EXILE, THE CRIMINALS OF FÁLAINA WOULD BE DRIVEN TO SAVAGERY BY THEIR EMOTIONS...
...AND OUR TROOPS WOULD WIELD DIVINE JUSTICE...
...TO BRING A JUST BUT TRAGIC END TO THEIR VICIOUS LIVES.




THIS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GIVE THE CITIZENS IDEAS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF A WORLD WITH EMOTIONS.
THE SHIP'S LOG RECORDS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NOUS SKYROS AND THE LOSS OF A PRECIOUS BATTLESHIP.

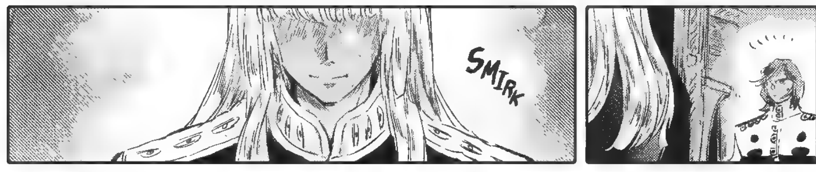
BUT THE MISSION FAILED.

WE WERE HOPING THAT THIS MISSION WOULD USHER IN A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE STORY OF THE EMPIRE...
...BUT THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE OUTCOME, COMMANDER ORCA.

WHO WANTS TO SEE AN OUTCOME LIKE THAT?

HIS MAJESTY HAS ALREADY GIVEN HIS VERDICT.

COMMANDER ORCA, THE HIGHEST-RANKING OFFICER ON THE MISSION AND COMMANDER OF THE APÁTHEIA TROOPS...
...ARÁCHNI, CAPTAIN OF THE SKYROS, AND NEARLY 100 OTHER SOLDIERS WILL BE EXECUTED.
THE EXTERMINATION MISSION NEVER HAPPENED.
...





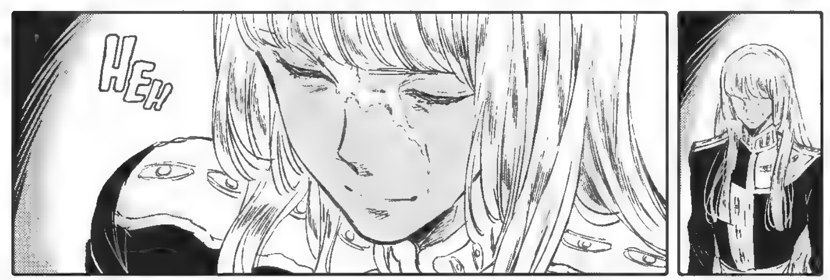
Travelers from Afar -The End-

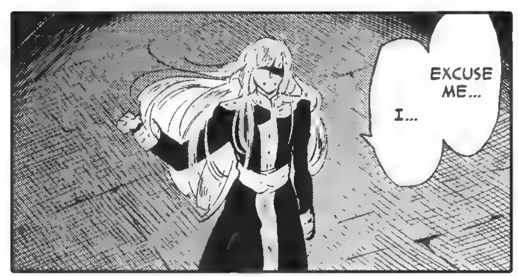

Chapter 18
The Heretic's Tale

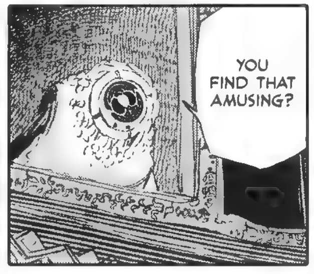
YOUR MISSION, YOUR RECORDS AND YOUR LIVES WILL DISAPPEAR.

YES, I DO.

THAT IS THE BEST STORY, COMMANDER ORCA.



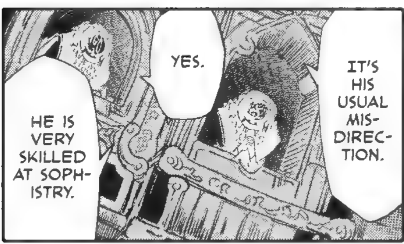








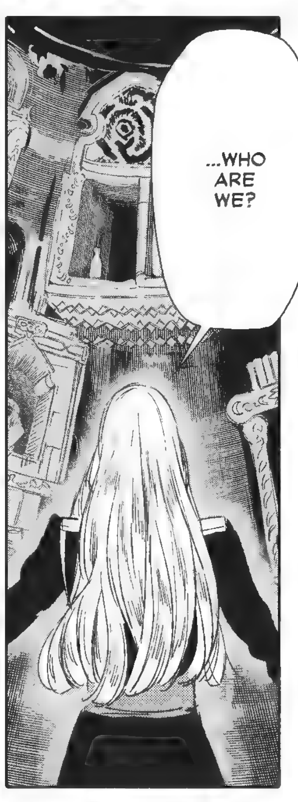




AT ONE POINT, THE HEAVENS...
...ABANDONED OUR WORLD.
PEOPLE WERE CORRODED BY EMOTIONS AND THE EARTH BECAME A CAULDRON OF DISASTERS, YET THE UNREPENTANT BECAME EVER MORE ARROGANT.
BUT ONE DAY, THE HEAVENS TORE LOOSE A PIECE OF GOD'S BODY...
...AND ALLOWED IT TO FALL TO EARTH.
THAT WAS...


...THE RAIN OF KATHARTÍRIO.
WITH THAT, THE OLD AND CORRUPT CIVILIZATION DIED.

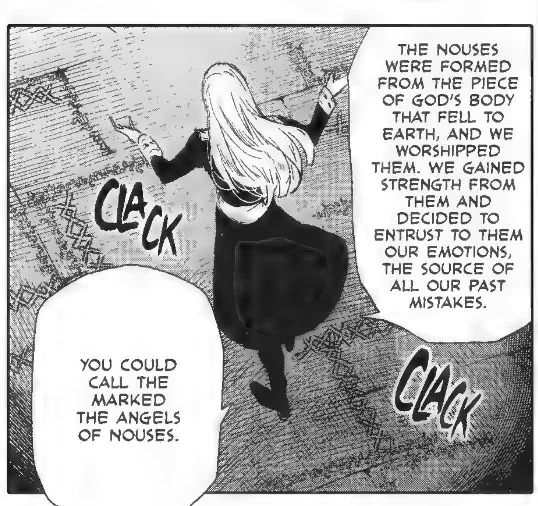

WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP NOW...?
SO...


...WHO ARE WE?




WHAT KIND OF BEINGS ARE WE?


WE SURVIVED ON THE ARK AND BUILT A NEW WORLD AFTER THE EARTH WAS CLEANSED.


THE NOUSES WERE FORMED FROM THE PIECE OF GOD'S BODY THAT FELL TO EARTH, AND WE WORSHIPPED THEM. WE GAINED STRENGTH FROM THEM AND DECIDED TO ENTRUST TO THEM OUR EMOTIONS, THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR PAST MISTAKES.
CLACK
CLACK
YOU COULD CALL THE MARKED THE ANGELS OF NOUSES.


THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE ON THIS EARTH.
THOSE WHO CAN BE THE MESSENGERS OF THE NOUSES AND THOSE WHO CANNOT.


THOSE WHO CANNOT BECOME THE MESSENGERS OF GOD ARE TRULY *UNMARKED*.
AS YOU KNOW, THEY ARE NOT CAPABLE OF OFFERING THEIR EMOTIONS...
...AND ARE TREATED AS UNCLEAN AND INHUMAN.
BUT HERE...
...WE GET TO SOMETHING YOU MAY HAVE FOR-GOTTEN.


THERE WAS ONCE A *THIRD* KIND OF PEOPLE.
A THIRD...?
THAT'S RIGHT.


DAÍMONES.
AFTER THE RAIN OF KATHARTÍRIO, OUR COUNTRY SOUGHT TO SEIZE SUPREMACY....
...AND THE POWER OF THE NOUSES CREATED A MOST POWERFUL SOLDIER.
BUT THEY WERE *TOO* POWERFUL.
THEY GAINED THE ABILITY TO DESTROY EVEN THAT WHICH THEY WORSHIPPED, THE NOUSES.
THE FORBIDDEN DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SO, IN FEAR, OUR COUNTRY SEALED THEM OFF.
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.
DAÍMONES ARE JUST A LEGEND.

AND THUS WE CONSIGNED THEM TO OBLIVION AS A PRODUCT OF OUR PAST.

BUT YOU CAN'T IGNORE THEM ANY LONGER.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO DESTROYED THE NOUS SKYROS...

...WAS, IS IN FACT, A DAÍMONAS!



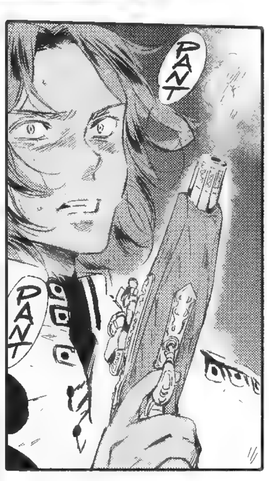

A THREAT CAPABLE OF SINKING THIS COUNTRY, OUR ARK.
A CORRUPTED ANGEL OF THE NOUSES.
THE TERRIFYING SOURCE OF ALL SINS ON EARTH.
IN THE FACE OF SUCH A BEING...
...ARÄCHNI...
...HOW...
...DID YOU TREAT HIM?
ACCORD-ING TO THE LOG, YOU UNDERES-TIMATED HIM...
...AND YOU INSULTED AND PROVOKED HIM.



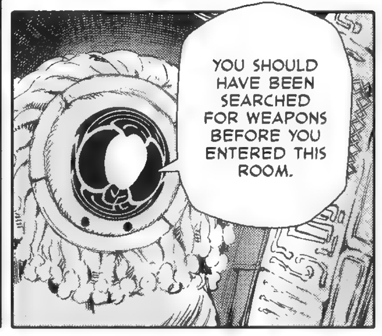
...
SMIRK
SHUU
OH!
GRR...
YOU...!
SHNK
BANG

RIIP

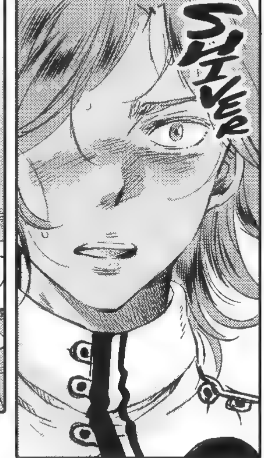

FLUTTER
FLUTTER

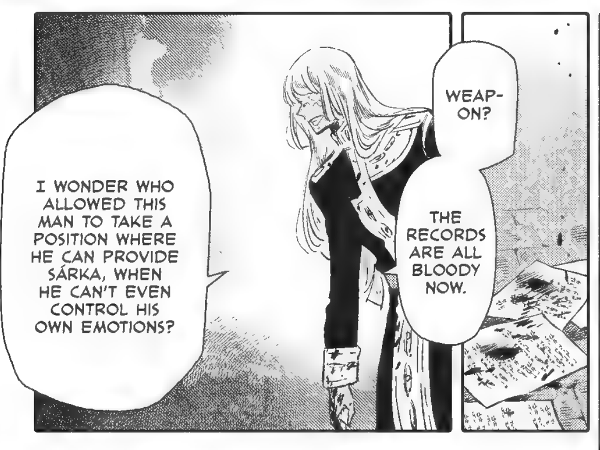

PANT
PANT


ZSH
N-NO.


YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS BEFORE YOU ENTERED THIS ROOM.


SMIRK
ORCA DREW HIS WEAPON FIRST...
PLIP
PLIP


SHIVER

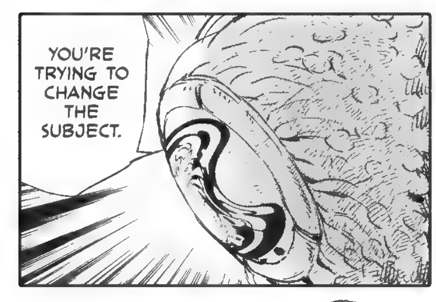

WEAP-ON?
THE RECORDS ARE ALL BLOODY NOW.
I WONDER WHO ALLOWED THIS MAN TO TAKE A POSITION WHERE HE CAN PROVIDE SÁRKA, WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN CONTROL HIS OWN EMOTIONS?


OH YES, IT WAS *YOU*—THE EKKLISÍA.
YOU WEREN'T ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, BUT KINDLY REMEM-BER...
...
...WHO IS RESPON-SIBLE FOR SINKING THE NOUS.
MURMUR
SO...
SHALL WE MOVE ON TO A NEW CHAPTER?


IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE...
...A *SECOND* RAIN OF KATHARTÍRIO COULD OCCUR.


...?


A SECOND UPHEAVAL?


YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

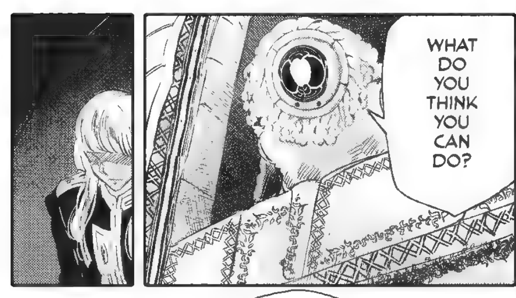

YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF URGENCY.
HA!

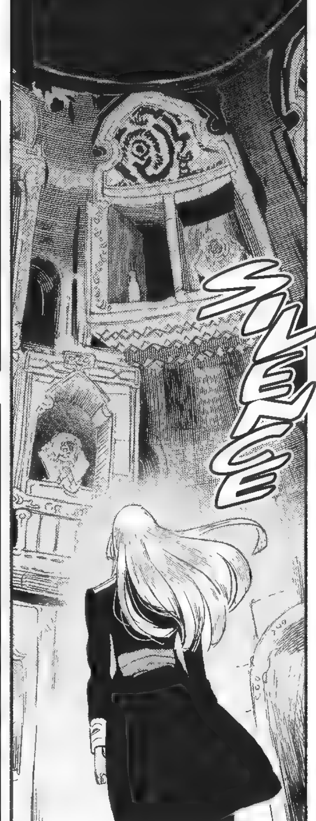

CAN YOU NOT HEAR THE DESPAIR OF THE HEAVENS?
THEY ARE STORING BLOODY TEARS IN THEIR FINGERNAILS SO THAT ONE DAY THEY CAN LET IT ALL FALL.
LOOK AT THIS TRANSIENT WORLD...
OUR MISSION TO SAVE IT HAS STALLED NOW THAT COUNTRIES WITHOUT NOUS ARE GAINING PROMINENCE.
THE RESURRECTION OF A DAÍMONAS, THE DESTRUCTION OF SKYROS—THIS IS THE PUS OF A CORRUPTED WORLD.
WE NEED TO...
...WASH IT CLEAN AGAIN.
A MAJOR UPHEAVAL.

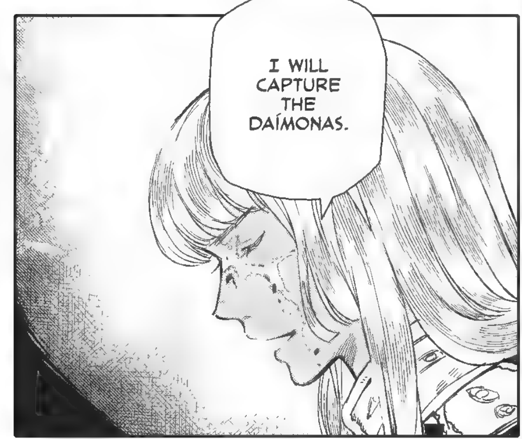

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE...
...WHAT...
...THAT WOULD BE LIKE.
I HAVE NAMED THE COMING UPHEAVAL...
...KATA-KLYSMÓS. AND I CALL TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE...
WILL THE IRE OF THE HEAVENS LEAVE TEETH MARKS SEVERING THE SEA OF SAND FROM THE LAND?
OR WILL ALL TRACES OF LIFE BE ROASTED IN THE EXTREME HEAT OF PURGATORY THAT RAINS DOWN?

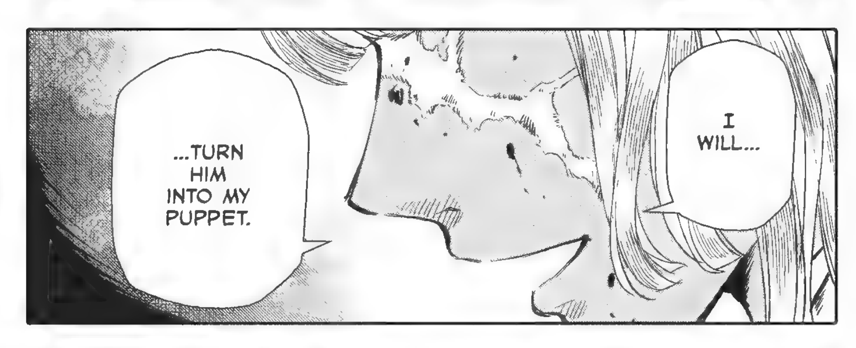

WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU MUST PROTECT THIS COUNTRY, WHICH WILL ONCE AGAIN BE AN ARK.
WE NEED TO CONTROL THE FALLEN ANGEL...
...THE DAÍMONAS WHO HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY ÁNTHROPOS.
CONTROL A FOR-BIDDEN WEAPON?
WE CAN JUST EXTERMI-NATE IT WITH FÁLAINA?
WHO WILL DEAL WITH THE DAÍMONAS?
EVENTUALLY ALL THE NOUSES AND EVEN ÁNTHROPOS WILL BE LOST.
WHO WILL DO THAT?
IF YOU LOSE ANOTHER NOUS BECAUSE OF THE DAÍMO-NAS, WILL YOU AGAIN EXECUTE EVERYONE INVOLVED?
DO YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED THAT MANY TIMES?

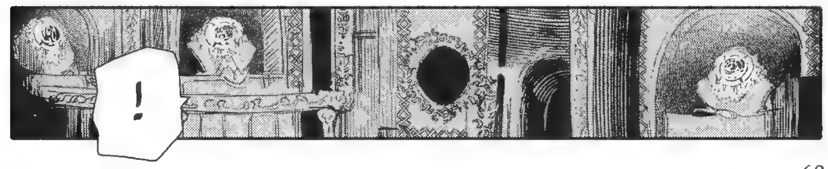
THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
THE IMPERIAL ARCHIVES AND ALL THAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR WILL COME TO NOTHING....
HA HA!
IT'S A FITTING END FOR THOSE WITH NO IMAGINATION.
AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES MESSENGERS OF GOD! HOW FUNNY.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
JUST LIKE THE RELICS...
...THAT SINK INTO THE SEA OF SAND...
TAK
...YOUR RUSTED BRAINS...
TAP TAP
ALREADY THOSE WHO CLING TO POWER ARE SCRAMBLING FOR SÁRKA. EVENTUALLY EVEN ÁNTHROPOS WILL BE CONSUMED.
...GO FULL SPEED TOWARDS YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!
EVEN WITHOUT KATAKLYSMÓS, YOU WILL SELF-DESTRUCT.


WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?

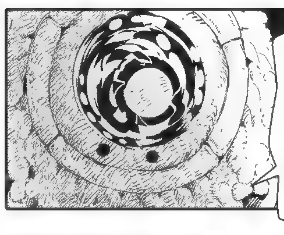

SILENCE

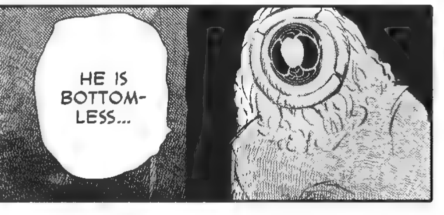

I WILL CAPTURE THE DAÍMONAS.


I WILL...
...TURN HIM INTO MY PUPPET.


!

SHEEN
I CAN DO IT.

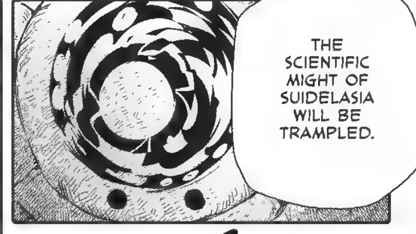

EVEN AFTER INGESTING SÁRKA, HE HAS SO MUCH AURA...


HE IS BOTTOMLESS...


HAVING THE DAÍMONAS WITHIN OUR CONTROL...
...MEANS WE CAN USE HIS POWER FOR THE EMPIRE.

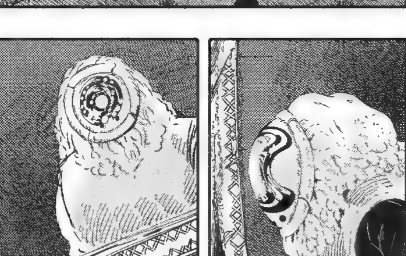

THE DAÍMONAS WILL REWRITE THE ORDER OF THE WORLD.

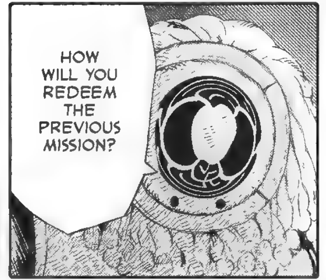

BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN PROHIBITED FOR SO LONG, THE SECRET OF CREATING DAÍMONES HAS BEEN LOST TO US.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, ONE HAS SURVIVED ON FÁLAINA.


THE SCIENTIFIC MIGHT OF SUIDELASIA WILL BE TRAMPLED.


DON'T YOU AGREE?


CLACK
WITH HIM IN HAND, OUR EMPIRE WILL ONCE AGAIN RISE TO LEAD THE WORLD.
SQUIK




THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO REGRET.
IT WAS A SUCCESS UP UNTIL WE ENCOUNTERED THE DAÍMONAS.

HOW WILL YOU REDEEM THE PREVIOUS MISSION?

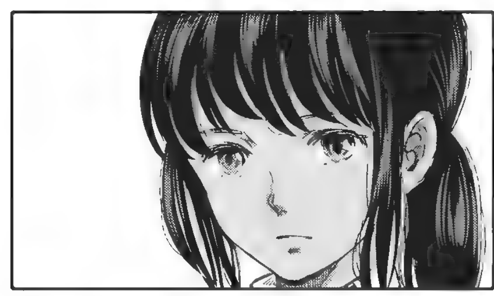
WHY, YOU...!

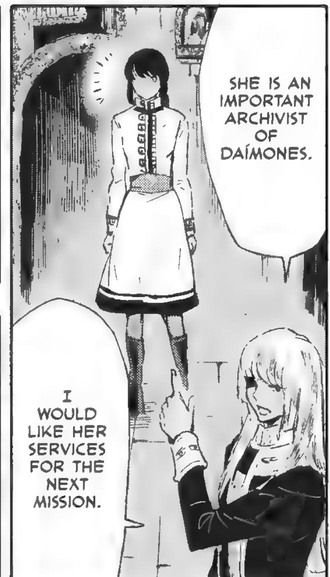
THE ARBITRARY ACTIONS OF THE CAPTAIN OF SKYROS, ARÁCHNI.

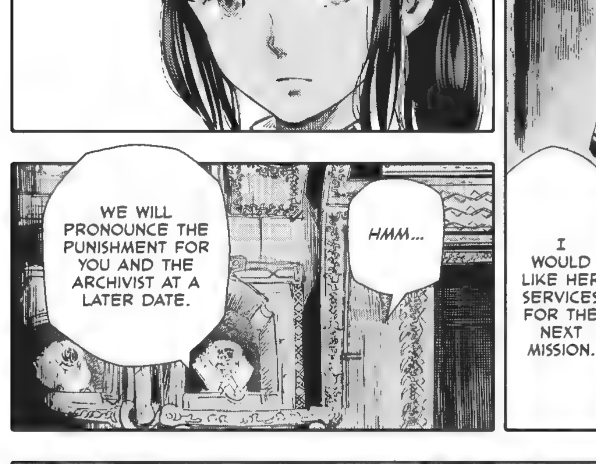
W—
WAIT A MINUTE!

?!
I WILL LEAVE YOU TO DEAL WITH YOUR SUBORDINATE.

THAT'S FINE...

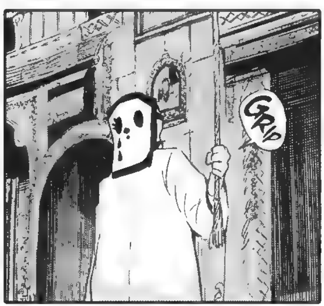


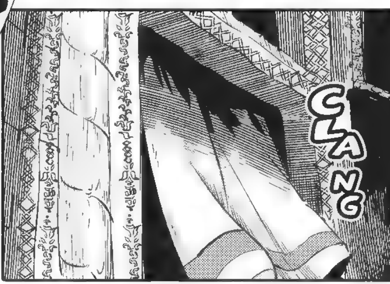

SHE IS AN IMPORTANT ARCHIVIST OF DAÍMONES.
I WOULD LIKE HER SERVICES FOR THE NEXT MISSION.


HMM...
WE WILL PRONOUNCE THE PUNISHMENT FOR YOU AND THE ARCHIVIST AT A LATER DATE.


ARE YOU BUYING HIS STORY?
NEVER MIND.


GOOOONG
GOOOONG


GRIP





GOOOONG

MAY DIVINE GRACE BE UPON THE SERVANTS OF THE NOUSES.

CAN YOU...
...SHOOT THIS WITH YOUR LEFT HAND?
W-WAIT.
GOOONG
HE DECEIVED ME...
...DURING MY WEAPONS CHECK!
HE TOLD ME THAT ORCA WAS PLANNING TO KILL ME TO ENSURE MY SILENCE...



YOU...

YANK

...ARE THE TRUE DAÍMONAS!

GOOOONG





CLACK CLACK

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD ASK FOR MY SENTENCE TO BE COMMUTED, ORCA.

I FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO RECORD THINGS FOR ME.





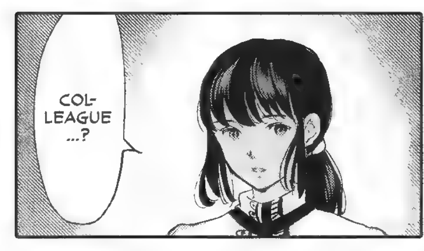



KATAKLYSMÓS.

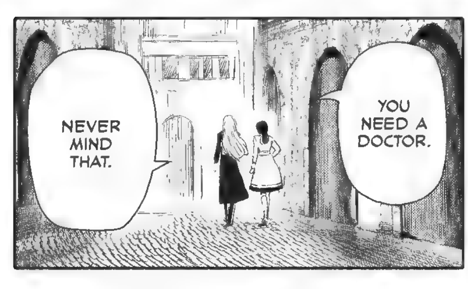

DON'T KNOW.

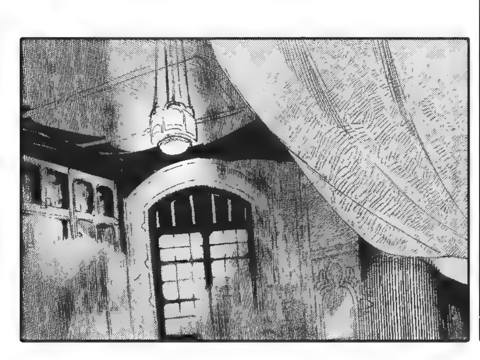

YOUR STORIES REALLY ARE FALLACIOUS.


SO HONEST.
I THINK YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD COLLEAGUE.


COL-LEAGUE ...?

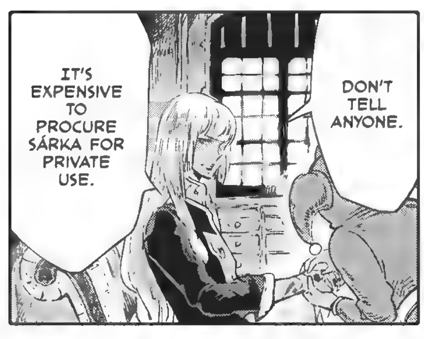

YES, ONE OF MY DEAR, FUNNY COLLEAGUES.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU NOW. COME WITH ME TO MY QUARTERS.


YOU NEED A DOCTOR.
NEVER MIND THAT.



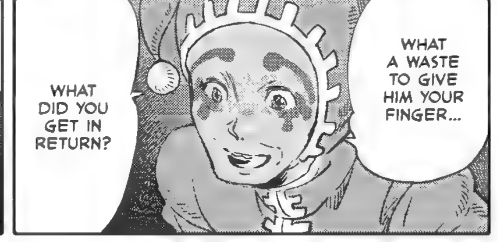


I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE SEEN BY A DOCTOR SOON.





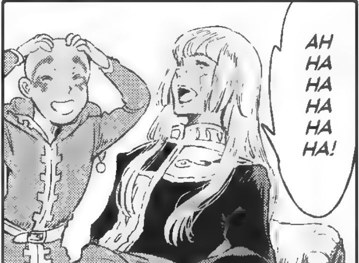





PAT
PAT
JUST LIKE ME.


THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM ALL YOUR **HAIR** TOO...


HE IS STRANGE.


AH HA HA HA HA HA!

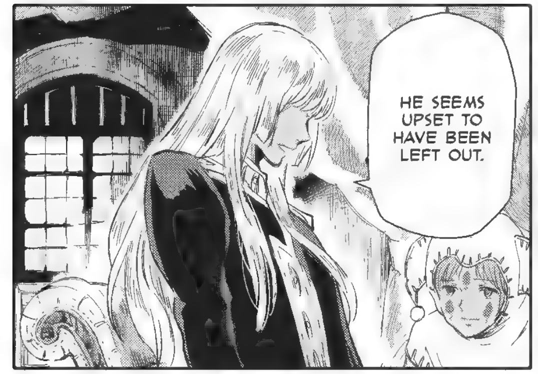

HEH HEH...


SHUT UP!!

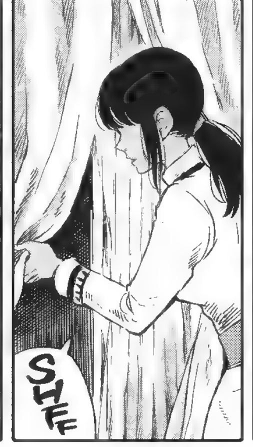

*HE ADVOCATES SUPPRESSING PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS, YET HERE HE IS LAUGHING WITH ONES WHO ARE **FULL** OF EMOTIONS.*


YOUR LAUGHTER AND THE SCREECHING OF THE JESTERS...
...GETS ON MY NERVES.


IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE HERE?


HE SEEMS UPSET TO HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT.


...
KRII


SHFF


OH.


...
IT LOOKS LIKE A DOG...

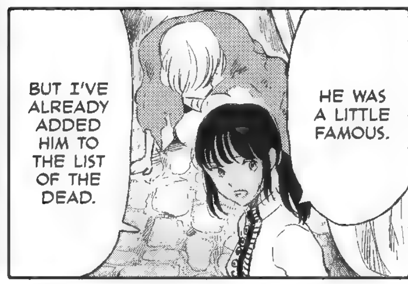

SHIVER
SHIVER

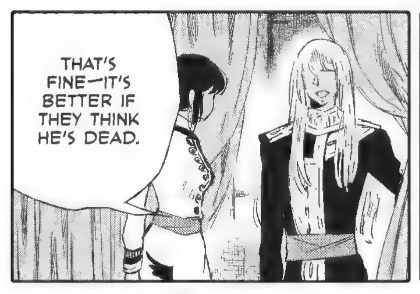

HE'S NOT A DOG.
HE'S A LION.
HEY, HEY!


HA HA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S...
WHAT'S WITH CALLING ME A DOG?




HE WAS A LITTLE FAMOUS.
BUT I'VE ALREADY ADDED HIM TO THE LIST OF THE DEAD.


THAT'S FINE—IT'S BETTER IF THEY THINK HE'S DEAD.


HE'S A FUNNY ONE.


HE WAS RESCUED BY THE KARCHARÍAS WHILE RIDING A SAND SUNFISH.


A SAND... SUNFISH?

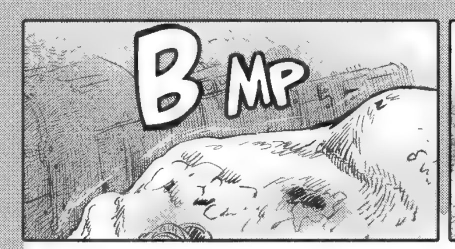

THERE ARE TALES ON THE SEA OF SAND OF THE SHIPWRECKED GRABBING ON TO A SAND SUNFISH AND BEING BROUGHT TO SHORE.
HEH HEH
BUT HE ACTUALLY DID IT.

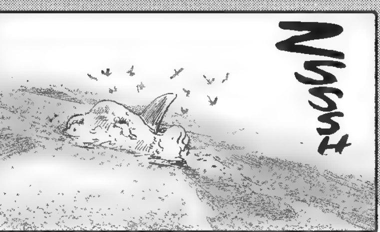

I TOLD YOU NOT TO LAUGH!


I SAW IT...


WHEN I FELL FROM THE CLIFFS OF FÁLAINA...
...I SAW THE MÁGISSA.


ZBBB
KSSSSH

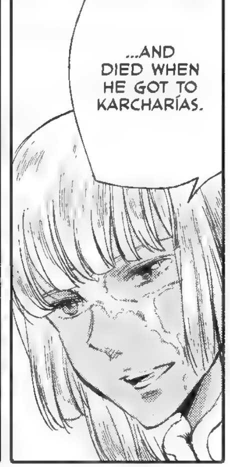

B MP


HSSSH


THE SUNFISH THAT CARRIED HIM...
...WAS BEING EATEN ALIVE BY BIRDS...


THE BIRDS WERE STARTING TO EAT LIONTARI AS WELL AND HE WAS NEAR DEATH, BUT APPARENTLY HE'S LUCKY.

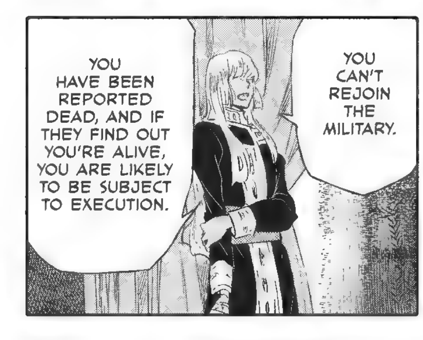

WHAT A STRANGE STORY.
I WONDER IF THE SAND SUNFISH WAS UNDER THE MÁGISSA'S SPELL?


...AND DIED WHEN HE GOT TO KARCHARÍAS.


NEVER MIND ALL OF THAT.


WHAT ABOUT FÁLAINA?
WHEN'S THE NEXT ATTACK?


I HAVE TO GO TO FÁLAINA...
THERE'S SO MUCH I STILL NEED TO DO THERE!

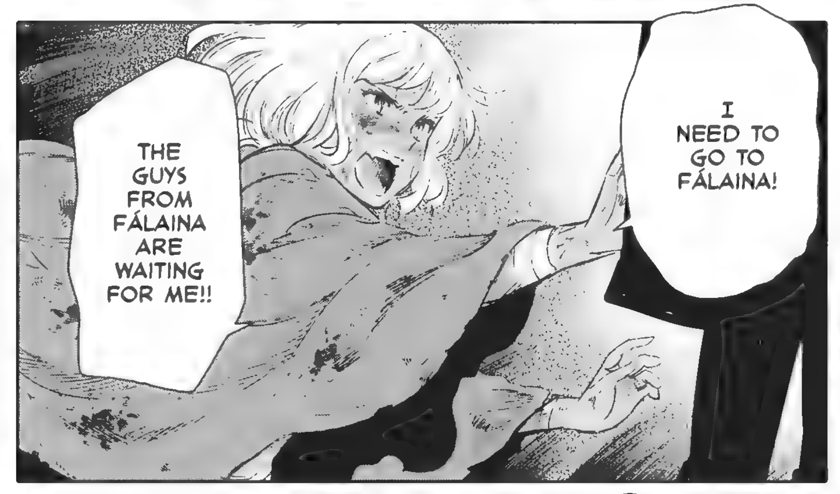
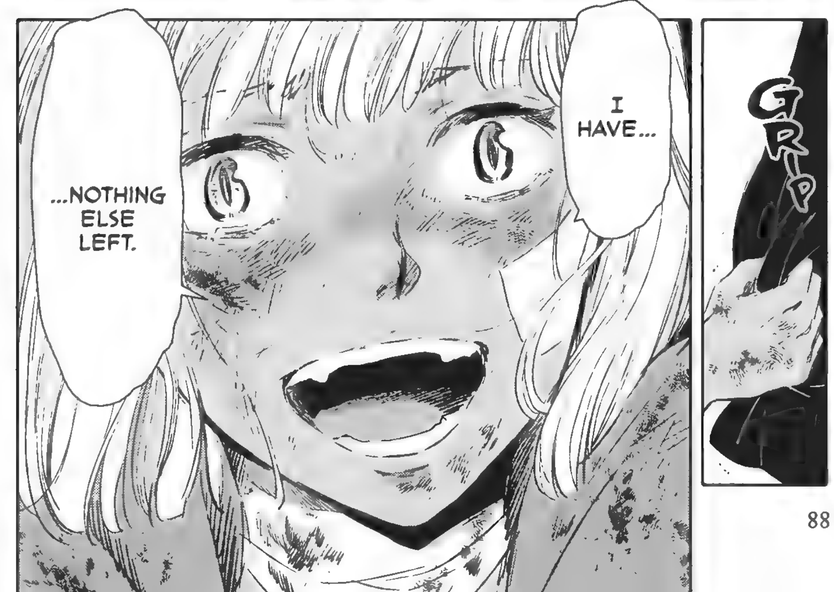

YOU CAN'T REJOIN THE MILITARY.
YOU HAVE BEEN REPORTED DEAD, AND IF THEY FIND OUT YOU'RE ALIVE, YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT TO EXECUTION.


...


YEAH, BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET OFF THAT EASY EITHER, RIGHT?


I MANAGED TO AVOID EXECUTION AT TODAY'S JUDG- MENT.
I'LL PROBABLY BE REMOVED AS THE HEAD OF THE APÁTHEIA...
...BUT I'M THE ONLY PERSON THEY HAVE TO LEAD THE MISSION AGAINST FÁLAINA.


T-TAKE ME WITH YOU!

I'M GOING TO EXTERMINATE THE CRIMINALS.
AND I HAVE A NEW MISSION TOO.

I NEED TO GO TO FÁLAINA!
THE GUYS FROM FÁLAINA ARE WAITING FOR ME!!

GRIP
I HAVE...
...NOTHING ELSE LEFT.

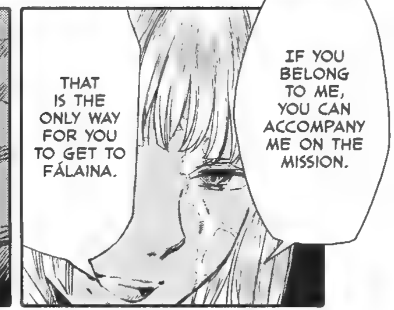




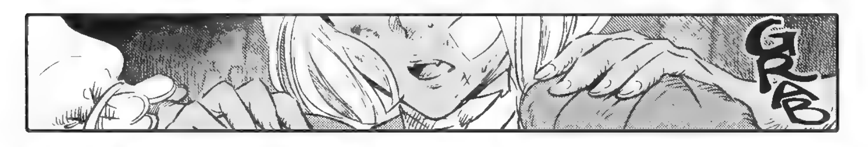
BECOME MY JESTER...

...LIONTARI.

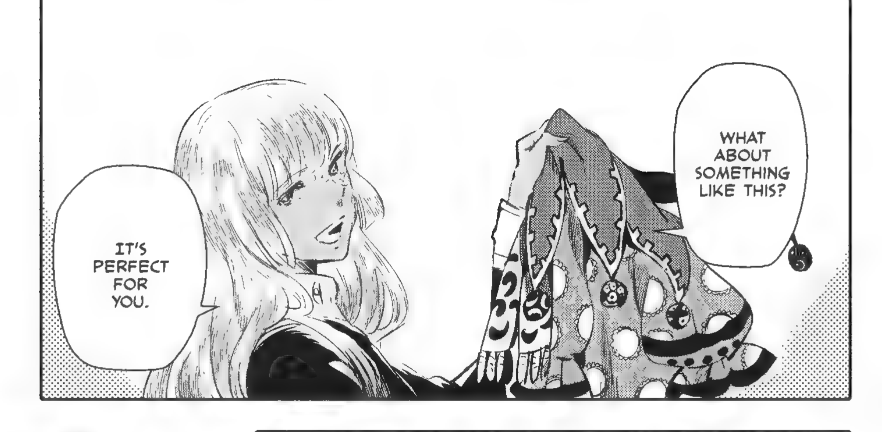

YOU'RE KIDDING... RIGHT?
WHY WOULD I...
STAGGER
A... JESTER?


IF YOU BELONG TO ME, YOU CAN ACCOMPANY ME ON THE MISSION.
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR YOU TO GET TO FÁLAINA.


N-
BUMP
NOOOO!


GRAB

YOU'RE SO MEAN.
IT'S FUN.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE GOOD AT IT.
AGH!

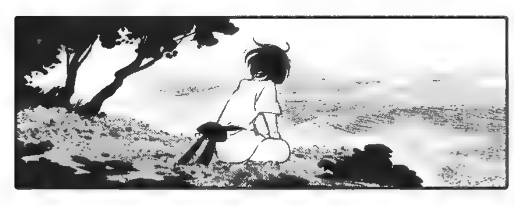


GU...

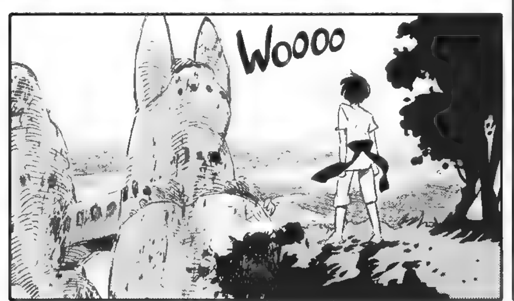
GYAAAAA!





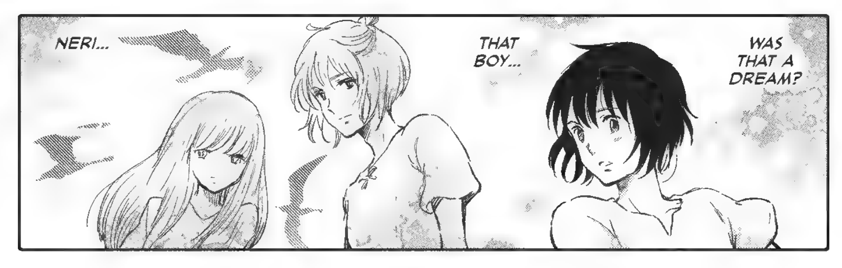


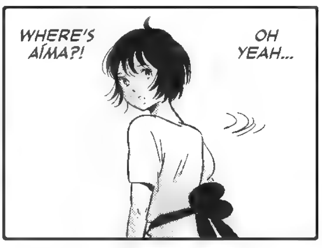

SHUP


WOOOO


IT'S THE MUD WHALE.


THE MUD WHALE WITH THE FIVE TOWERS LIKE ALWAYS.

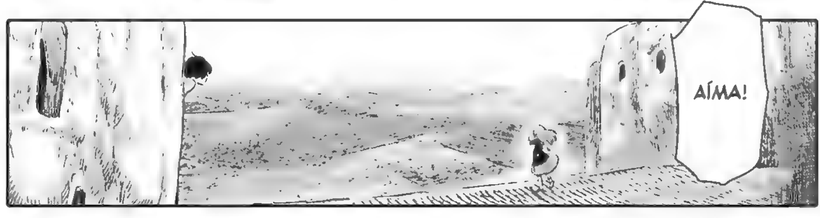

WAS THAT A DREAM?
THAT BOY...
NERI...


OH YEAH...
WHERE'S AÍMA?!


SHE'S NOT HERE.


KÓKALO.
OH!
SHE TOOK KÓKALO!


AH!
IT'S SO NOISY.
YAH!
YAH!
GEEZ.
WHO IS THAT?
!
♫
TMP
DASH DASH


AÍMA!


AÍMA!
DON'T!
GIVE ME BACK KÓKALO!


SHE DOES HAVE KÓKALO.





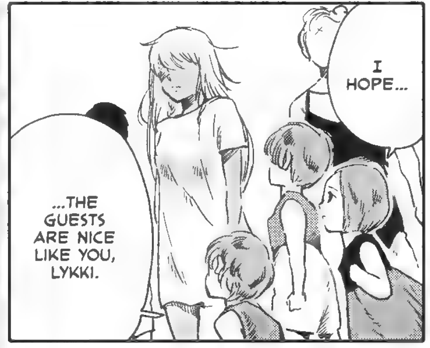
The Heretic's Tale -The End-


Chapter 19
The Chantey of Dreams


DO WE REALLY HAVE VISITORS?
MUR
MUR
ARE THEY SCARY?
THEY'RE IN TOWER 2 RIGHT NOW.
ARE THEY GOING TO ATTACK US?
IF THEY DO ATTACK US...
...I'LL USE MY THYMIA, AND BANG!
I'LL SHOOT THEM DOWN LIKE WE DID WITH THE SKYROS SOLDIERS.
POOF
POOF
...
POOF
SHING

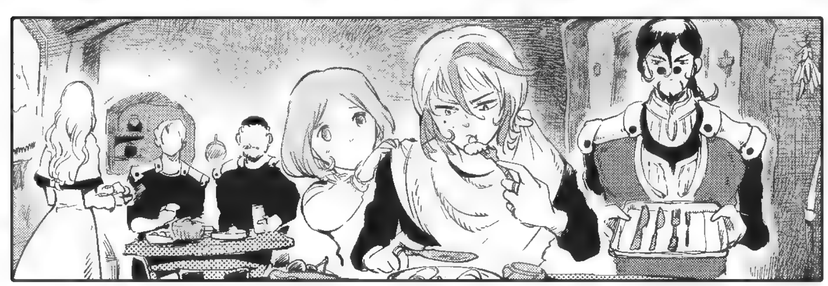
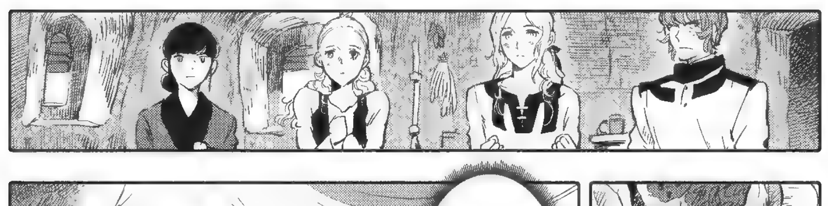
LYKOS?

I'M SORRY.





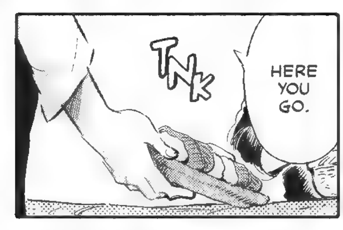
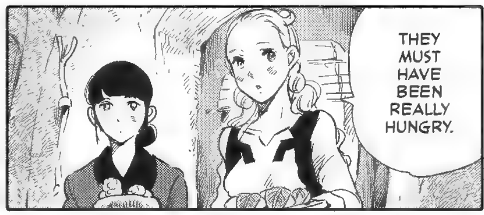
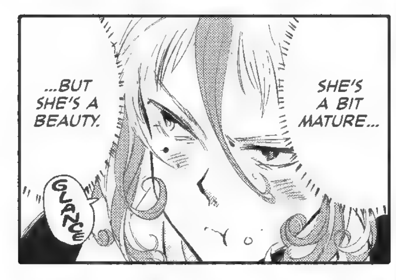


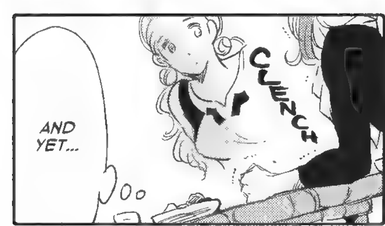




IT'S AWFUL.
MNCH
MNCH


MUNCH
MUNCH
...WE CAN EAT ANYTHING AS AWFUL AS THIS!
MUNCH

THERE'S SCARCELY ANY FLAVOR.

THERE IS NO WAY...

TNK
HERE YOU GO.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HUNGRY.

...BUT SHE'S A BEAUTY.
SHE'S A BIT MATURE...
GLANCE

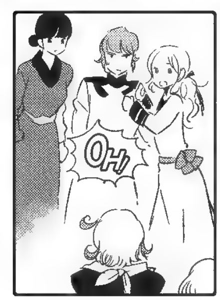
I'LL BRING YOU SOME MORE.

AND YET...
CLENCH

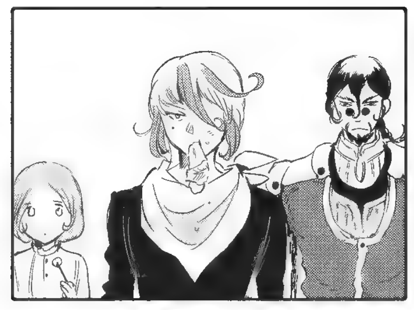
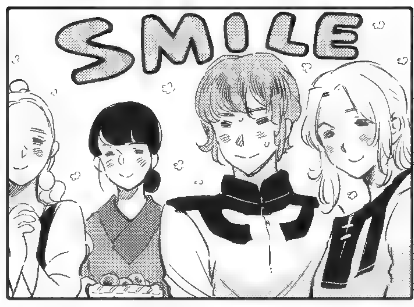
?
WHY ARE YOU WEARING CLOTHES?
SLAM
A NAKED TRIBE...
THIS ISN'T THE ISLAND OF A NAKED TRIBE!
UHN!
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
KUCHI-BA!

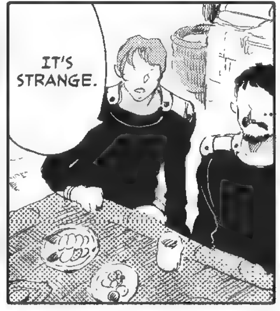
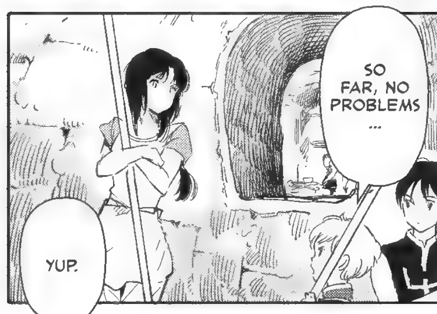

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.
PLEASE DON'T INSULT THEM.
YOU'RE SHORT-TEMPERED AND SOCIALLY HOPELESS.
WHISPER
THESE PEOPLE ARE...
...VERY IMPORTANT ALLIES.


HUH, WELL I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM SOME-ONE WHO MADE THEM VERY WELCOME *IN THE NUDE*.


WWW
AAA
PPP
DON'T ARGUE IN HERE!


OH!



SMILE

THEY GO TO GREAT PAINS, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

IT'S STRANGE.

SO FAR, NO PROBLEMS ...
YUP.

THEY'VE FIGURED OUT WE'RE SURREPTI-TIOUSLY GUARDING THEM, RIGHT?
NO WORRIES, BUT WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT.



GINSHU, YOU SAW THEM WHEN THEY ARRIVED, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

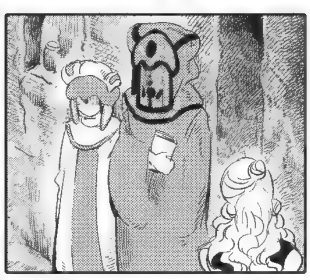

UMMM.


THAT GUY WHO ACTS LIKE THE BOSS...
UMM... RO-ROCHA ROCHA SOME-THING...
I'M GUESSING...
...HE'S AN IDIOT.


NOW...
...LISTEN UP.
IDIOTS CAN'T CONSPIRE AGAINST YOU...
...BE-CAUSE THEY'RE STUPID.

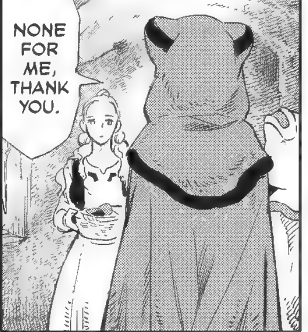

SO...
ROCHA-WHATEVER ISN'T SUCH A BAD GUY.

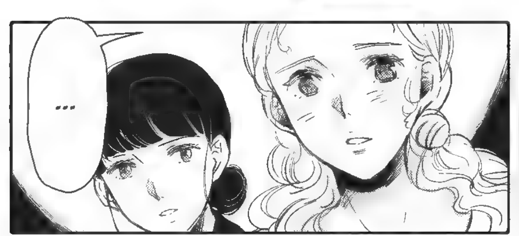

I GUESS SO.
THAT'S RIGHT— IDIOTS AREN'T BAD PEOPLE.
OH, HIS NICKNAME SHOULD BE ROCHI!

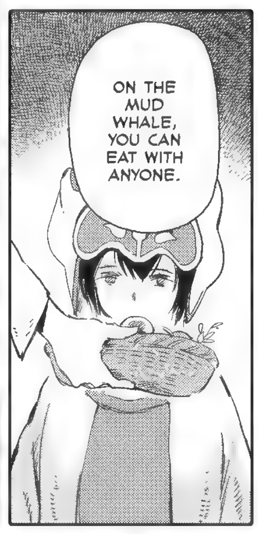



PLEASE COME AND EAT.

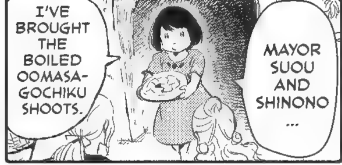

WE ARE SAND MAIDENS.
WE ARE UNCLEAN AND CANNOT EAT WITH SIR ROCHALÍZO.

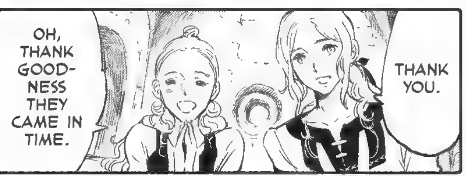

NONE FOR ME, THANK YOU.

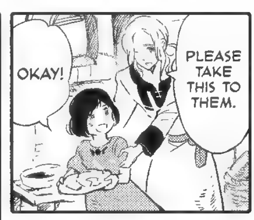

...


ON THE MUD WHALE, YOU CAN EAT WITH ANYONE.

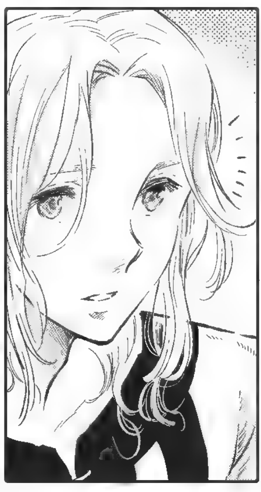

THAT'S THE RULE HERE.


MAYOR SUOU AND SHINONO ...
I'VE BROUGHT THE BOILED OOMASAGOCHIKU SHOOTS.


THANK YOU.
OH, THANK GOODNESS THEY CAME IN TIME.


PLEASE TAKE THIS TO THEM.
OKAY!


OH!



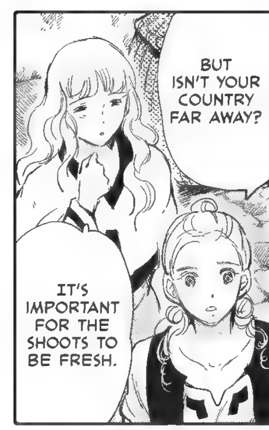

NOM
SWSH SWSH SWSH



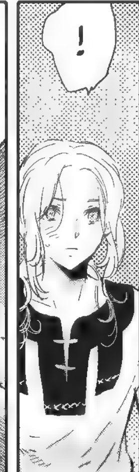
!!
MNCH
ANOTHER FLAVORLESS DISH, I'M SURE.
TH- THIS...
AN UNDERSTATED SWEET FRUITINESS LIKE THE AROMA OF RUMIWA GRASS TEA...
A RICH LUSCIOUSNESS, LIKE THE BEST TOKUNO GOAT MILK...
THIS UNIQUE TEXTURE— SO SOFT, AND YIELDING MORE FLAVORS THAT DANCE OUT ON YOUR TONGUE WITH EVERY CHEW.
WE DEMAND TO SEE THE CHEF WHO MADE THIS, NOW!
IT'S BOILED OOMASA-GOCHIKU BAMBOO SHOOTS.
THE CHILDREN JUST HARVESTED THEM AND BOILED THEM.
WHAT ?!
THEY'RE JUST BOILED?!

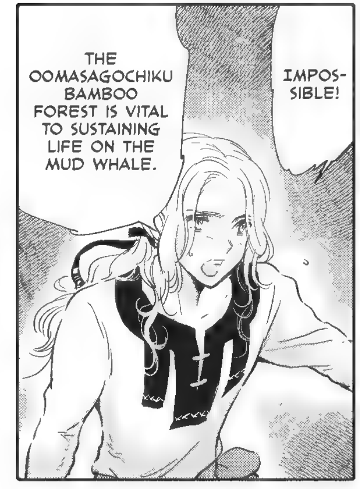

THERE'S A BAMBOO FOREST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLAND.
THE SHOOTS GROW QUICKLY, SO THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE.
I SEE...
THE ISLAND AND THE PEOPLE SMELL LIKE MILK BECAUSE OF THIS BAMBOO.


I WANT IT!
WE'LL BRING IT BACK TO AMONLOGIA!


BUT ISN'T YOUR COUNTRY FAR AWAY?
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE SHOOTS TO BE FRESH.


OF COURSE! WE'LL BRING THE ENTIRE GROVE.

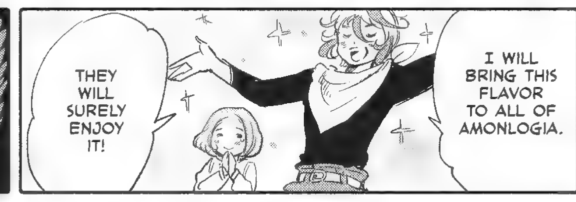

!


IMPOS-SIBLE!
THE OOMASAGOCHIKU BAMBOO FOREST IS VITAL TO SUSTAINING LIFE ON THE MUD WHALE.


HUH? WHAT THE HELL IS HE ON ABOUT?
I MEAN, OF WHAT ARE YOU SPEAKING, DEAR GUEST?
...


OBVIOUSLY!
WE WILL BRING BACK THE ENTIRE ISLAND.


THERE HE GOES AGAIN...


I WILL BRING THIS FLAVOR TO ALL OF AMONLOGIA.
THEY WILL SURELY ENJOY IT!


I ORDER YOU TO MOVE THIS ISLAND.


I BELIEVE IT IS CURRENTLY...
...DRIFTING AWAY FROM AMONLOGIA.



THE MUD WHALE...

...HAS GONE WHEREVER IT FEELS LIKE FOR ALMOST A CENTURY.

NONE OF US KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING TO HEAD NEXT.

TURN IT? STEER IT SOME-WHERE?

SLAM

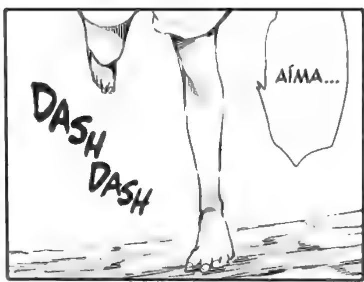

WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS SITUATION IF WE COULD DO THAT!
IF WE COULD HAVE ESCAPED, WE WOULD HAVE!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN STEER IT...
...GO AHEAD AND TRY.
KRIIII
K-RAK
WHAT?

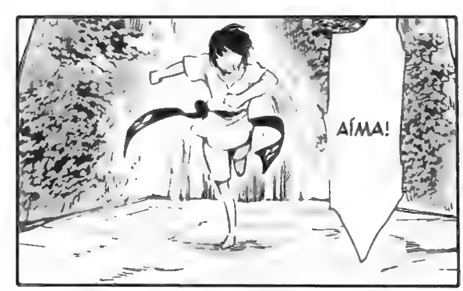

ROLL
KRII
HEEY...
MY BOOZE...
...
BONK
HEY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, NEZU?
I-IT'S NOT ME... IT'S JUST ROCKING!
KRIIIK
KRIII

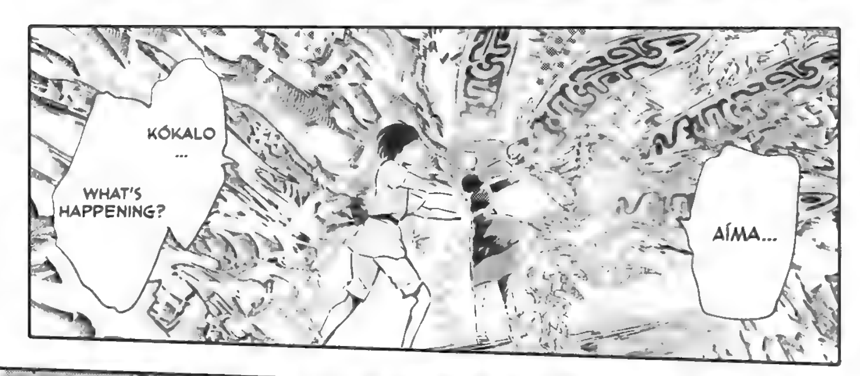
GINSHU...
OVER THERE!
ZSSH
OH!
WHAT IS THAT?
LOOK...











THE POSITION OF THE SUN HAS CHANGED.

THE MUD WHALE ...

...IS STEERING ITSELF.

THE MUD WHALE...

...IS SPEEDING UP!

WHAT IS THIS?

WINGS...

OUNI, YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHY IS IT ROCKING SO MUCH?

KIII

YOU JUST TOLD US THE ISLAND DOESN'T TURN.

BE QUIET, DEAR GUEST.

I MEAN ...

SHUT YOUR FACE, BRAT!

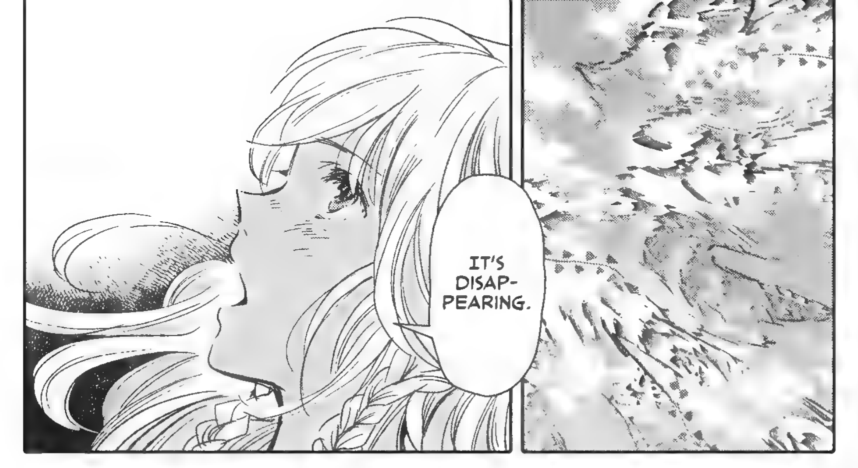
IT DOESN'T USUALLY MOVE LIKE THIS!

KUCHIBA, YOU'VE MADE IT WORSE WITH THE REPHRASING.

WINGS OF LIGHT...

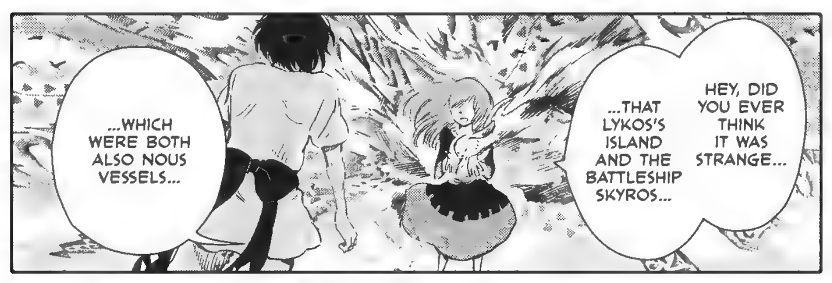
IT'S SO SHINY AND BIG.

OH!

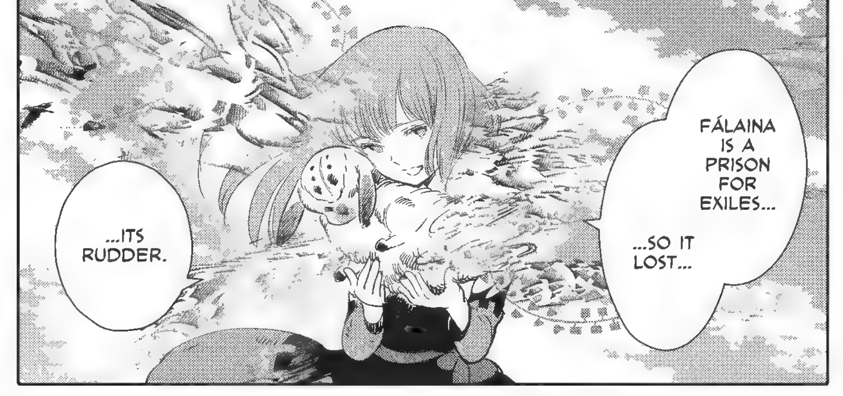

IT'S DISAP-PEARING.

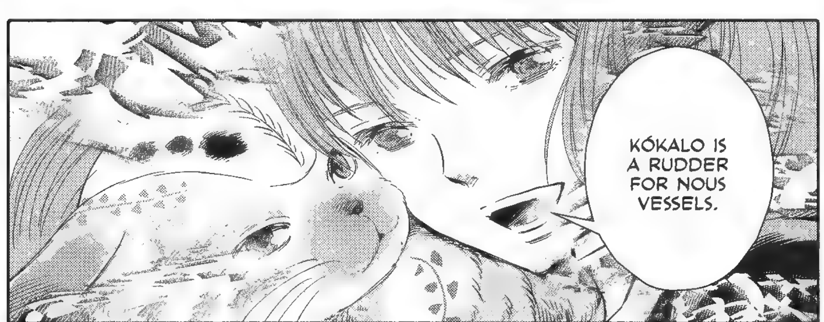

SSSSH


KYUU...
SWISH


HEY, DID YOU EVER THINK IT WAS STRANGE...
...THAT LYKOS'S ISLAND AND THE BATTLESHIP SKYROS...
...WHICH WERE BOTH ALSO NOUS VESSELS...


...COULD BE STEERED, BUT FÁLAINA COULD NOT BE?
...


FÁLAINA IS A PRISON FOR EXILES...
...SO IT LOST...
...ITS RUDDER.


KÓKALO IS A RUDDER FOR NOUS VESSELS.


SO IF WE HAVE KÓKALO, THE MUD WHALE HAS THE FREEDOM TO DECIDE WHERE IT GOES?
IS THIS THE NEW STAGE THAT OLIVÍNIS WAS TALKING ABOUT?
SHWP
OH!


GASP


POP
HUH?
YAWN...
YOU CAN STEER TOGETHER, ALL OF YOU.
AÍMA!

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO SELF-CENTERED?

WHY DID YOU JUST MOVE THE MUD WHALE ALL OF A SUDDEN AND SURPRISE US LIKE THAT?

BESIDES, YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME THE HISTORY OF THE MUD WHALE YET.

I *SHOWED* YOU.

THAT DREAM WAS YOU...?

I'LL SHOW YOU THE REST LATER.



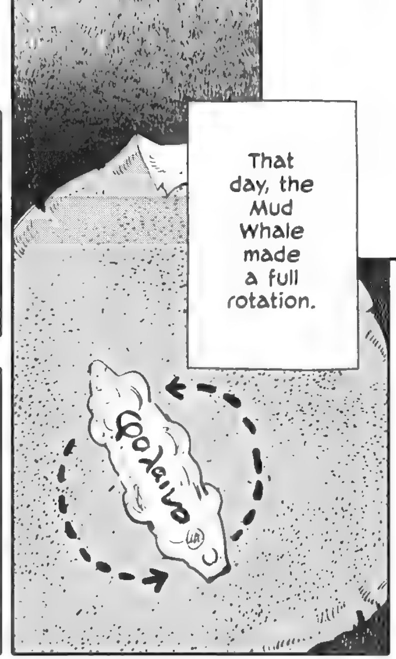




Life is a battle.

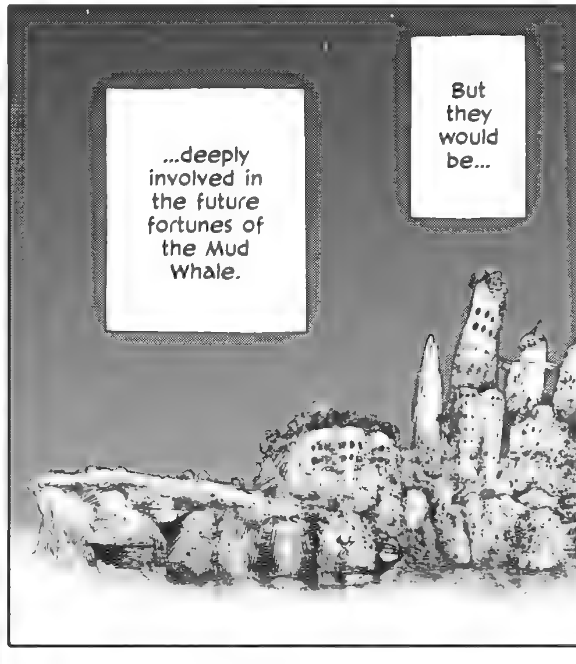
You live it, you grab it, and it burns you up.

WHOOSH


That day, the Mud Whale made a full rotation.


The guests who had arrived on the round boat...


...possibly made cautious by the sudden odd changes, didn't yet tell us anything about their country.


But they would be...
...deeply involved in the future fortunes of the Mud Whale.

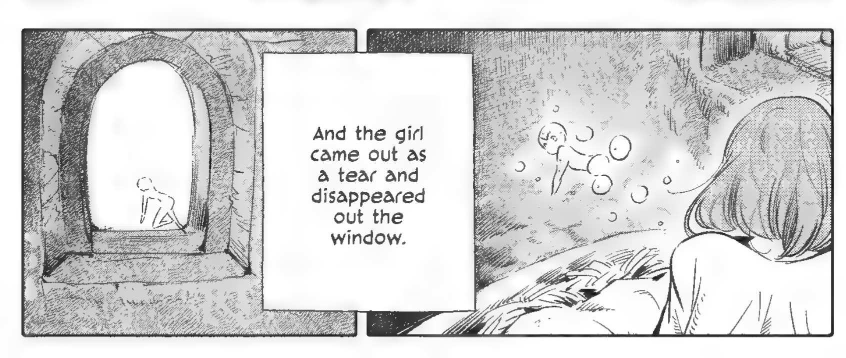

That night, the people of the Mud Whale had a dream.

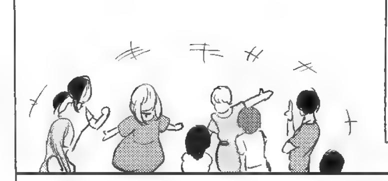

...who then crawled into their ears.


To their bedside a small girl came...
...who they later said resembled Neri...


It was somehow very sad, and they cried as they woke.

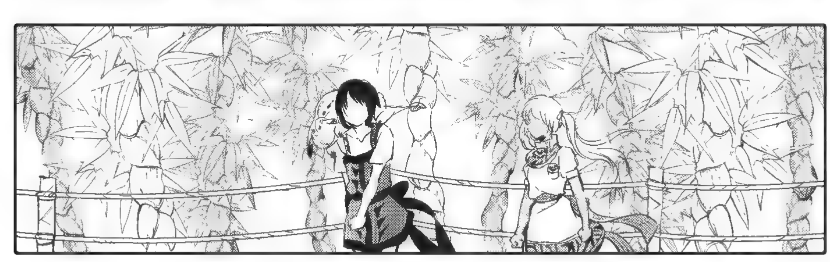

The girl sang a strange song in their heads...
...and made the gestures of praying.


And the girl came out as a tear and disappeared out the window.

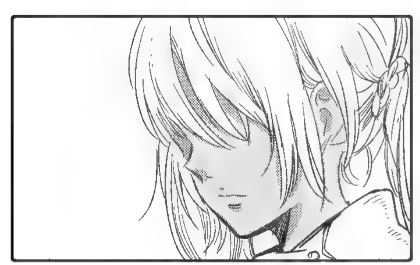

Every-one had the same dream...
...so the next morning, all anyone could talk about were the guests and the dream.


Except for the Unmarked, who hadn't dreamed it at all.
?


Strangely, ten of the 12 guests from the round boat...
...who had been born and raised far away, also shared the dream.








A RUDDER FOR THE MUD WHALE?
THAT?
A STRANGE KID NAMED OLIVÍNIS GAVE IT TO ME ON SKYROS.


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?
BECAUSE ...
...SUOU AND THE REST OF YOU ADVISERS ...
...ALL SEEMED SO TIRED AFTER THE BATTLE.


AND I ONLY FOUND OUT IT WAS A RUDDER YESTERDAY, ANYWAY.
EVERYONE HAD THAT DREAM ABOUT THE GIRL IN OUR EARS...
AND SHE DIDN'T JUST LOOK LIKE NERI—SHE LOOKED LIKE OLIVÍNIS TOO.
SO I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE RELATED.
...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT US.

BUT WE UNMARKED DIDN'T HAVE THE DREAM, SO I COULDN'T SAY...

BUT I THINK...

...WE KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

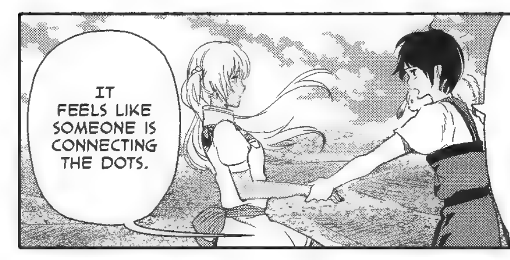



Those of us who dreamed...
...all woke up...
...understanding how to steer the Mud Whale.
From the moment we awoke from that dream...
I GET IT...
THE SPIDERS AND THE BIRDS...
...WERE ALL DREAMING!
ONE DAY, THEY'LL PROBABLY ALL DREAM AT THE SAME TIME!


ZSSH
YOU'VE SEEMED A BIT DOWN SINCE YESTER-DAY.

...

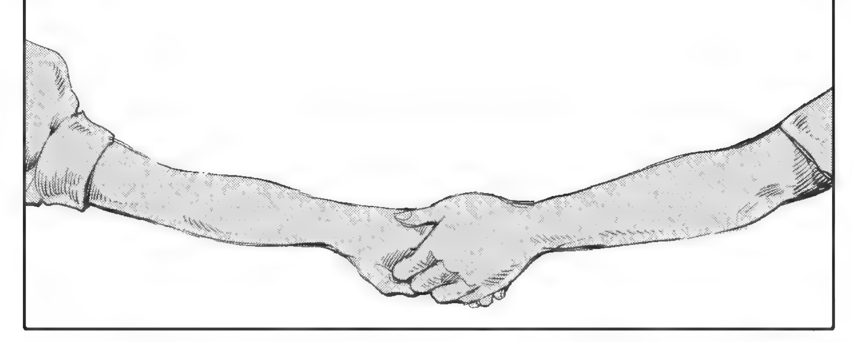
HEY, LYKOS...


ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE GUESTS?

IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE IS CONNECTING THE DOTS.
BUT THE FACT THAT THEY SHOWED UP AND WE FOUND OUT WHAT KÓKALO IS ON THE SAME DAY...

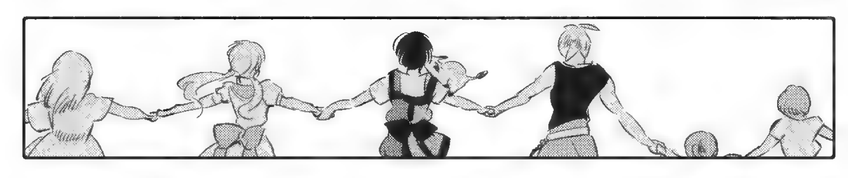
THE UNKNOWN SCARES ME TOO.

UM, YEAH.

I THINK THIS IS A NEW BEGINNING FOR ALL OF US.








We pale at the vast ocean become gloomy and dark...
...we shine like the scales of a snowy sky.
We stand inside you and run beside you.
Farther than the myriad twinned red steeples...
...smaller than a salt blossom fallen in a corner of a tiny boat.
Snuggled like a shivering little bird.
More distant than a target on a cloud.





The blood becomes a pattern on the sand...

...a ballad of record with the grass, the trees and the birds.



Please come find us...

...little travelers who sail your mud boat, and sleep with the white sand as your bed.

In the eternal passage of time, we will surely meet...

...but, like the tears of a butterfly, we will never touch again.

Even were we to attempt to be one again...

...we can only be scattered forever.

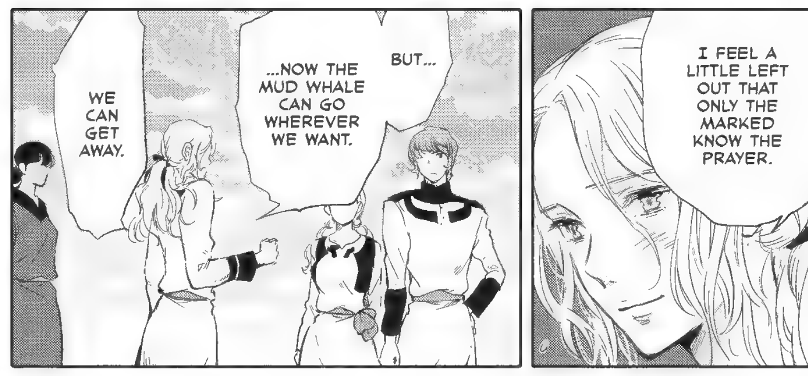


SUCH CHILD'S PLAY TO MAKE IT MOVE.

JUST WHAT I EXPECT FROM THIS ISLAND.

If but once and it ends...

...we'll return yet again.





WE NEED TO ASK THE GUESTS FOR DIRECTIONS RIGHT AWAY.

SUOU?

HEY!!

ROLL ROLL

DON'T FALL DOWN FOR NO REASON! SO CLUMSY.

THUD

Owww...

OUNI...

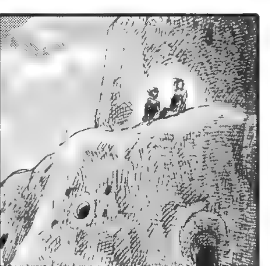
...YOU'RE AWAKE!

OUNI, YOU FINALLY...

...GET TO...

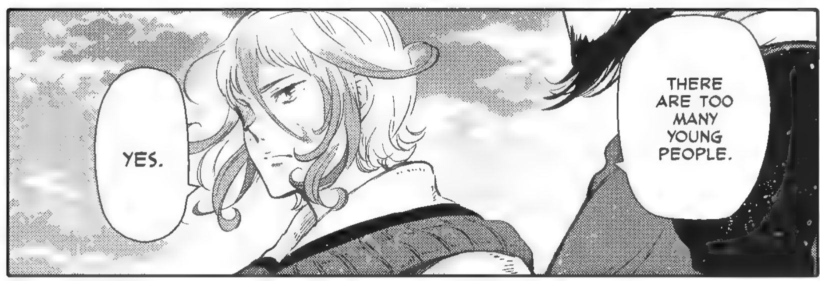
...GO TO THE NEW WORLD YOU'VE BEEN LONGING TO SEE.








IT'S A MAGNIFI-CENT VIEW WHEN ALL THE RESIDENTS ASSEMBLE.
SIR ROCHALÍZO, HAVE YOU NOTICED? ...


YES.
THERE ARE TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE.


BUT...


...THEY ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY PEOPLE I'VE EVER SEEN.

Beyond the Sea of Sand, where none of us have ever been...

...we can search for people who see us not as descendants of criminals...

...but as allies.





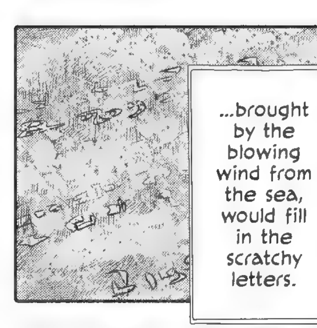


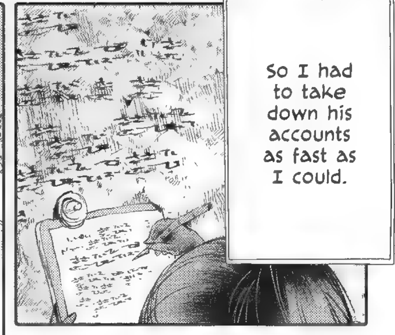
The Chantey of Dreams -The End-

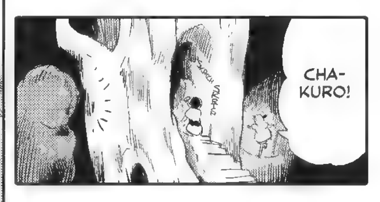

The buildings of the Mud Whale are coated with mud plaster.
You can make marks in it with just a small stone.
So the mud walls were a great place for him to write.
-A Record-
The Ballad of the Archivist
I am his observer.
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SIGH!

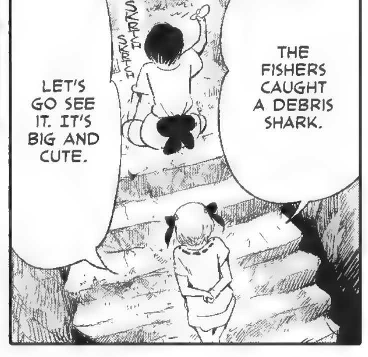

If a wall was damaged, it was fixed by plastering it over with more mud.


And grains of sand...
WOOO


...brought by the blowing wind from the sea, would fill in the scratchy letters.

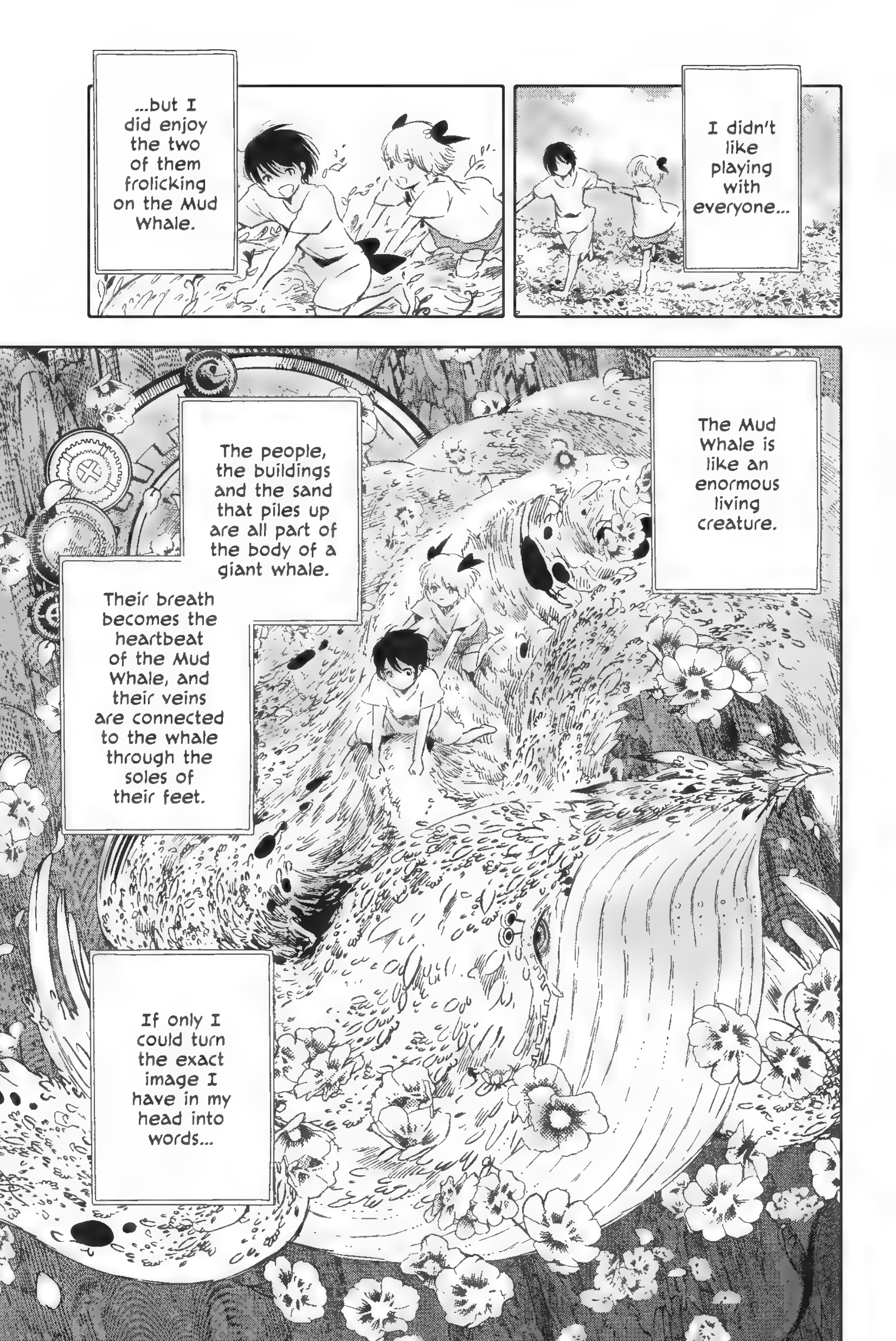

So I had to take down his accounts as fast as I could.


CHA-KURO!

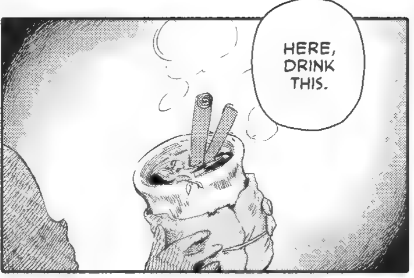

SCRATCH SCRATCH
THE FISHERS CAUGHT A DEBRIS SHARK.
LET'S GO SEE IT. IT'S BIG AND CUTE.

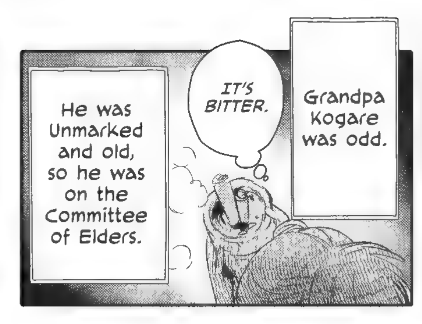

Sami is his girlfriend (?).
And my thymia teacher.


PULL
CHAKURO, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
HMMM.


I didn't like playing with everyone...
...but I did enjoy the two of them frolicking on the Mud Whale.
The Mud Whale is like an enormous living creature.
The people, the buildings and the sand that piles up are all part of the body of a giant whale.
Their breath becomes the heartbeat of the Mud Whale, and their veins are connected to the whale through the soles of their feet.
If only I could turn the exact image I have in my head into words...

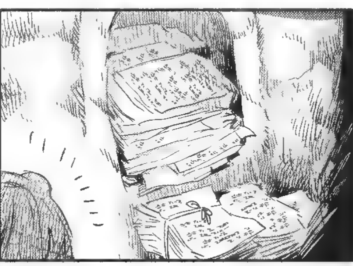

Sometimes people thought I was peculiar for knowing letters that the Marked rarely use.
But before I knew it, I was able to master the difficult continental letters used by the Committee of Elders.
I only learned my letters a few years ago.
I was still little and there were lots of Marked children who didn't read, so it was hard to get someone to teach me.
I even had a teacher.
Chakuro's grand-father. Grandpa Kogare.
He is teaching me to read.
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN...
COME HERE.
BUB
BUB


HERE, DRINK THIS.

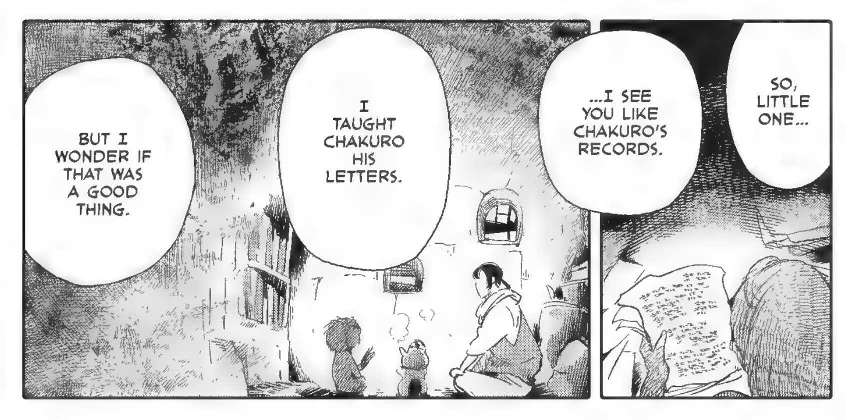

Grandpa Kogare was odd.
IT'S BITTER.
He was Unmarked and old, so he was on the Committee of Elders.


But he didn't wear the robes of office and instead dressed like the Marked...
CAN YOU SMELL THE SWEET SCENT OF BITTER CASSIA?


...and he dyed his hair with knotweed, which we usually use for ink, so his hair was always pitch-black.

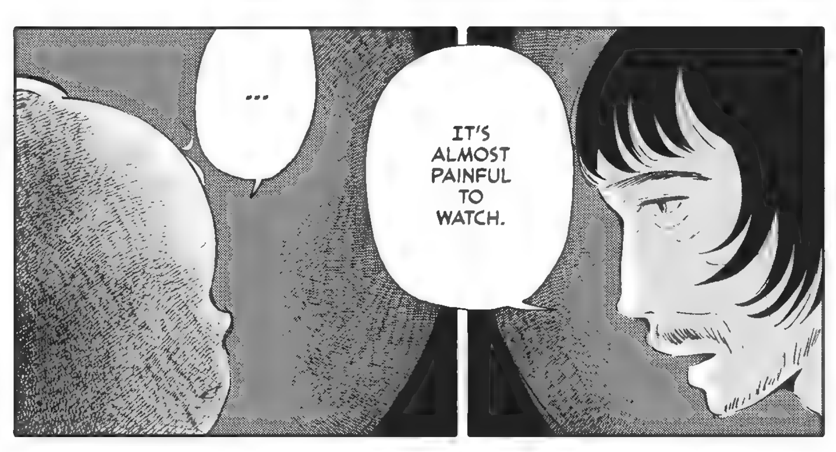


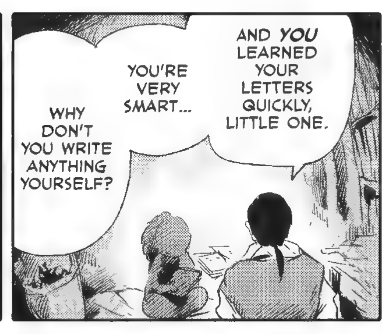

THIS IS EVERYTHING CHAKURO HAS WRITTEN SO FAR.
!

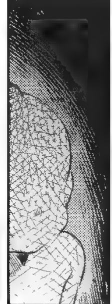

SO, LITTLE ONE...
...I SEE YOU LIKE CHAKURO'S RECORDS.
I TAUGHT CHAKURO HIS LETTERS.
BUT I WONDER IF THAT WAS A GOOD THING.

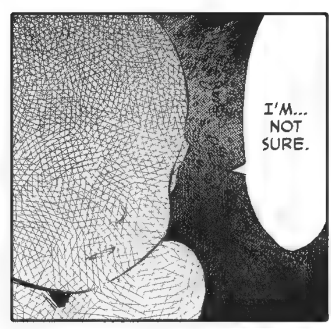
Chakuro has hyper-graphia.
It's a disorder where one cannot control the compulsion to write.
This disorder forces him to record everything as it happens.
HE JUST KEEPS WRITING.






AND *YOU* LEARNED YOUR LETTERS QUICKLY, LITTLE ONE.
YOU'RE VERY SMART...
WHY DON'T YOU WRITE ANYTHING YOURSELF?




I'M... NOT SURE.


I-I CAN'T SPEAK VERY WELL... AND...
...I-I CAN ONLY WRITE DOWN WHAT'S ALREADY THERE.


EVEN THOUGH MY HEAD IS FULL OF STORIES.
POKE
POKE


IT'S AS IF... SOMETHING IS... PREVENTING... ME...
IT'S PULLING AND I CAN'T GET IT OUT.


I SEE YOU HAVE YOUR SCARS...
...BUT...


PAT
MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST RIGHT NOW.


KIKUJIN.
I'M SURE BOTH YOU AND CHAKURO HAVE BIG PARTS TO PLAY.
He, who is ordered to continue writing...
...and me, who is prevented from story-telling.
We are both ailing.
I wonder if one day we will be able to truly portray this boundless world...
...for the someone who is waiting to read the story of the Mud Whale.
The Ballad of the Archivist -The End-
Children of the Whales volume 5 -The End-



A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)
Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy

Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Urumi	muddy gray



I'm a cat lover, but for some reason there aren't any kitties on the Mud Whale. I'm sure if there were, they would soothe the inhabitants.

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion*. *Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.



VOLUME 5
VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by Abi Umeda

Translation / JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering / Annaliese Christman
Design / Julian (JR) Robinson
Editor / Pancha Diaz

KUJIRANOKORAHA SAJOUNIUTAU Volume 5

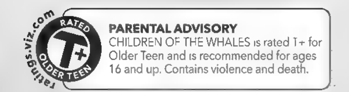
First published in Japan in 2015 by AKITA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo
English translation rights arranged with AKITA PUBLISHING CO., LTD. through
Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2018

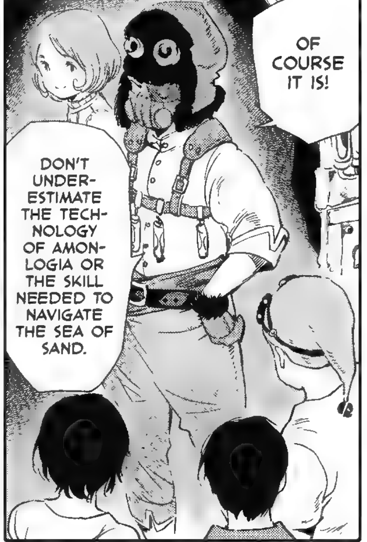


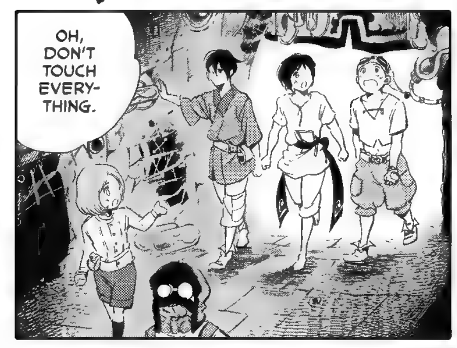




IT LOOKED SMALL FROM UP TOP...
...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY BIG!

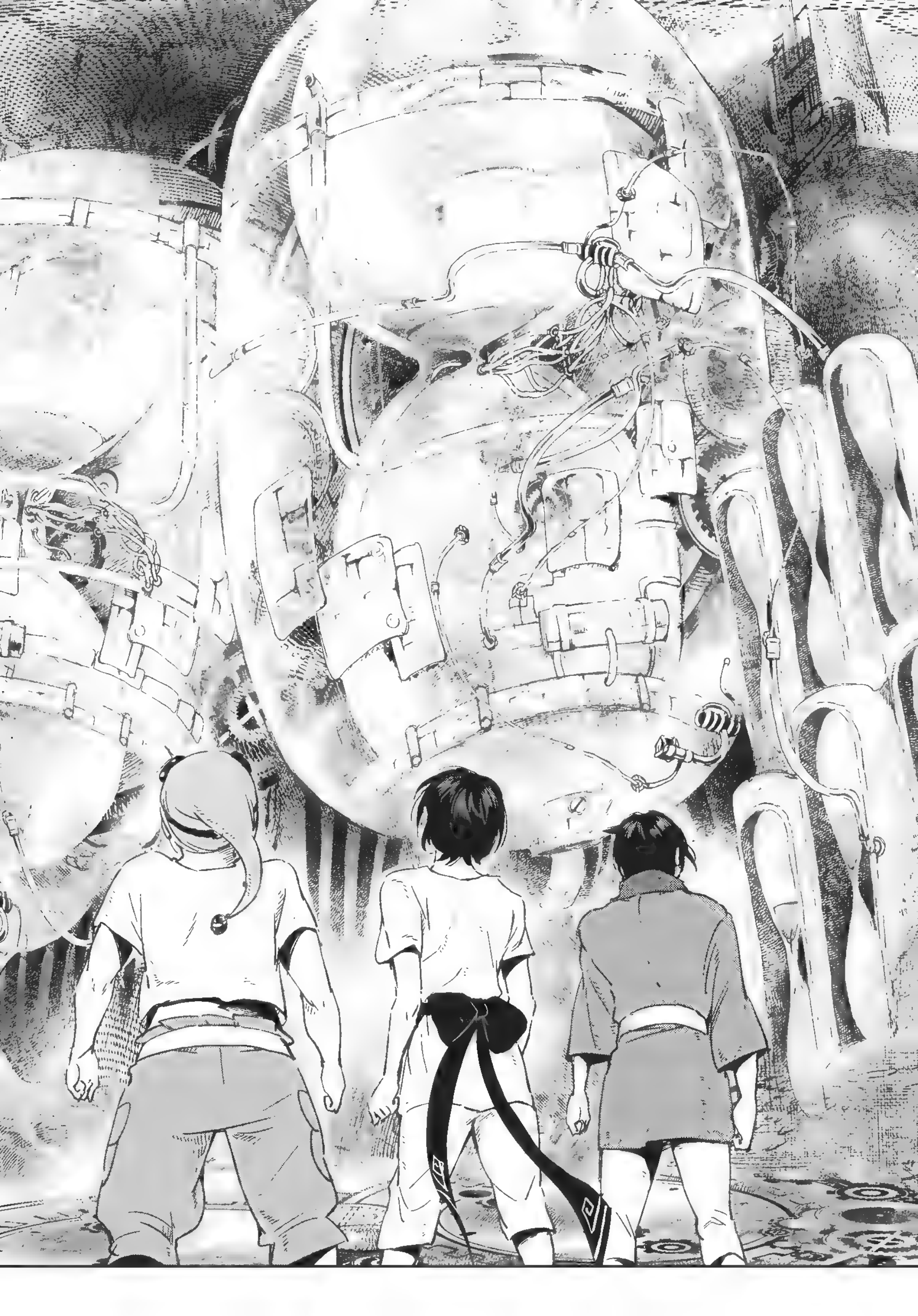
Chapter 20 The Sun Sets on 93 Years



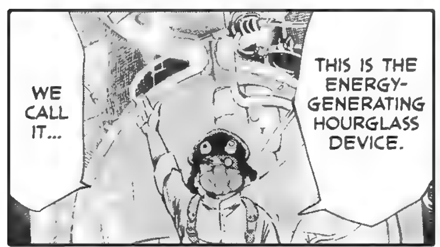




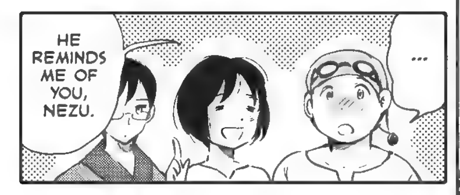





WHOA


THIS IS THE ENERGY-GENERATING HOURGLASS DEVICE.
WE CALL IT...


...ENERGY-GENERATING HOURGLASS DEVICE!!


...
HE REMINDS ME OF YOU, NEZU.

YOUR ISLAND FLOATS USING ENERGY FROM A SPECIAL ORGANISM.

BUT AMONLOGIA DOESN'T HAVE THOSE, SO WE NEED TO FLOAT BY OTHER MEANS.

THE FIGURE EIGHT IS OPTIMAL FOR BRINGING OUT THE ENERGY GENERATED BY THE MOVEMENT OF THE SAND.

IT'S BASED ON A COLLECTION OF KNOWLEDGE LEFT BEHIND BY PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATIONS. WITH A REVERSIBLE BUT HIGH-DENSITY ABSORPTION CYCLE!

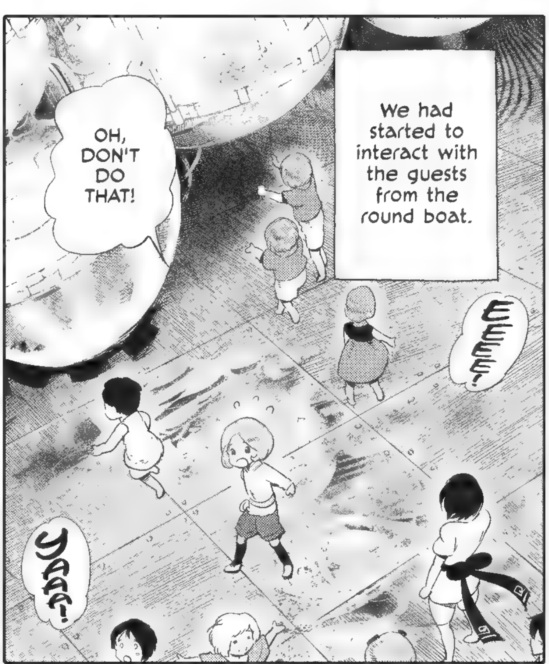
VRRM

THE MATERIAL THAT MAKES THE EXTRACTION OF ENERGY FROM THE SEA OF SAND POSSIBLE, AS IF BY MAGIC, IS—

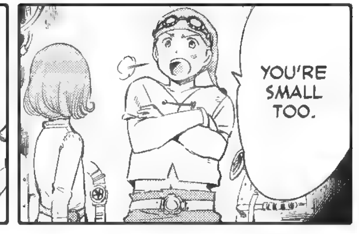


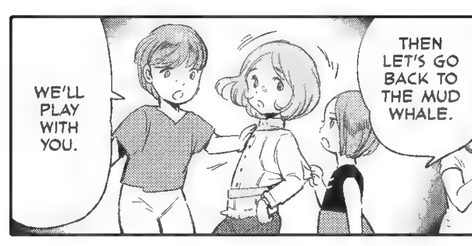





We had started to interact with the guests from the round boat.
OH, DON'T DO THAT!
EEEE!
YAAA!

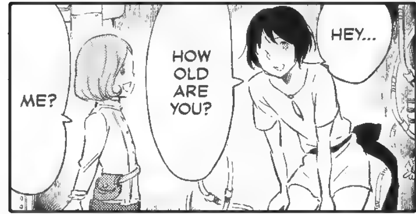

LISTEN, WE HAVE SOME SENSITIVE INSTRU-MENTS HERE...
...SO CAN WE NOT HAVE SMALL CHILDREN ON BOARD?


YOU'RE SMALL TOO.

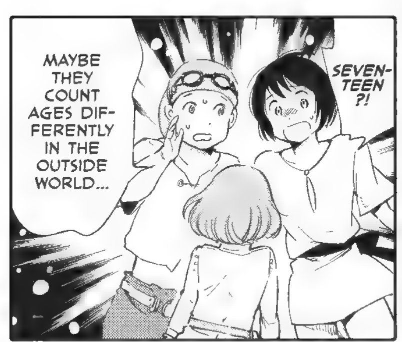

THEN LET'S GO BACK TO THE MUD WHALE.
WE'LL PLAY WITH YOU.

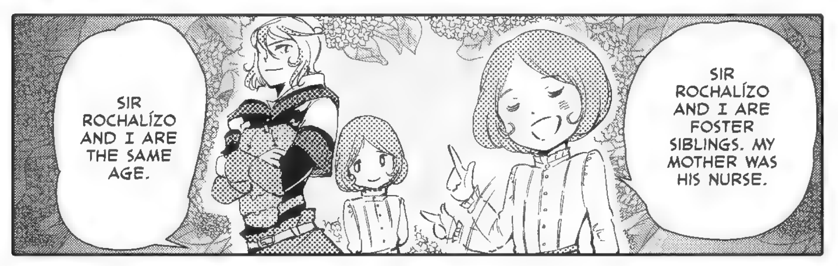

HA HA HA! THAT'S OKAY.
YOUR BIG BROTHER CHASMOU-RITÓ WILL PLAY WITH YOU.

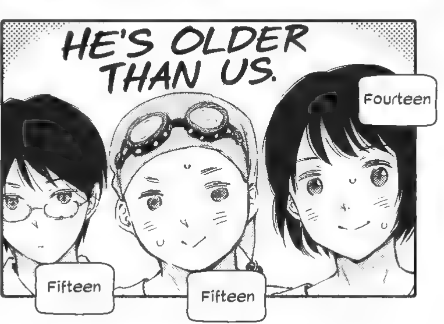

...

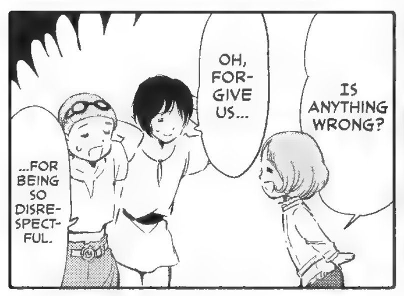

HEY...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
ME?

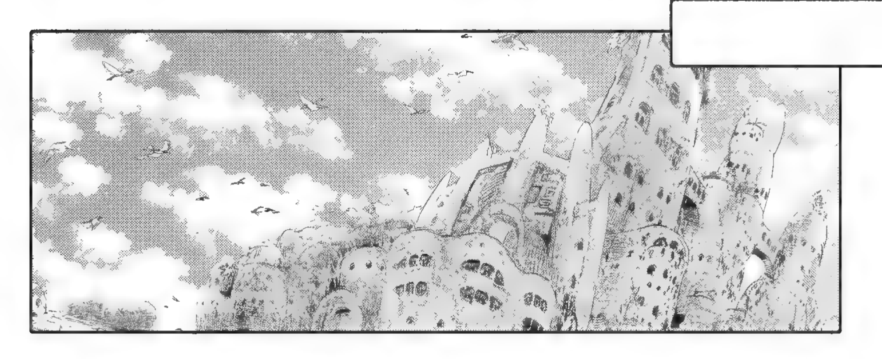

SEVEN-TEEN!


SEVEN-TEEN?!
MAYBE THEY COUNT AGES DIF-FERENTLY IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...


SIR ROCHALÍZO AND I ARE FOSTER SIBLINGS. MY MOTHER WAS HIS NURSE.
SIR ROCHALÍZO AND I ARE THE SAME AGE.


HE'S OLDER THAN US.
Fourteen
Fifteen
Fifteen


IS ANYTHING WRONG?
OH, FOR-GIVE US...
...FOR BEING SO DISRE-SPECT-FUL.

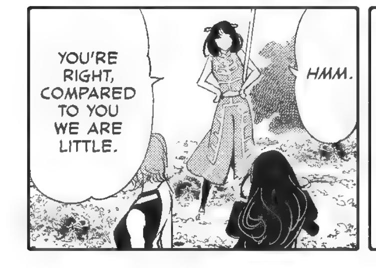
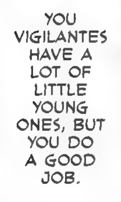


JAB
WHOA!
KASH






THUMP
OF COURSE ...
...WE HAVE NO VALUE IF WE DON'T FIGHT.

I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE WITHOUT THYMIA.

HMM.
YOU'RE RIGHT, COMPARED TO YOU WE ARE LITTLE.


YOU VIGILANTES HAVE A LOT OF LITTLE YOUNG ONES, BUT YOU DO A GOOD JOB.

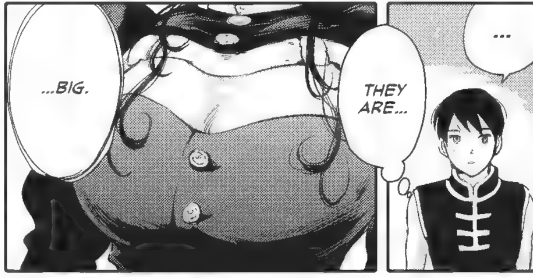
?

HOW DO YOU GET SO BIG?
PAT
PAT

D-DON'T TOUCH ME.
EVERYONE FROM OUR COUNTRY IS BIG.


BUT ROCHI AND THE OTHERS AREN'T BIG.


WE ARE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, EVEN FARTHER AWAY.
THERE, A GROUP OF PEACEFUL GIANTS LEAD QUIET LIVES.

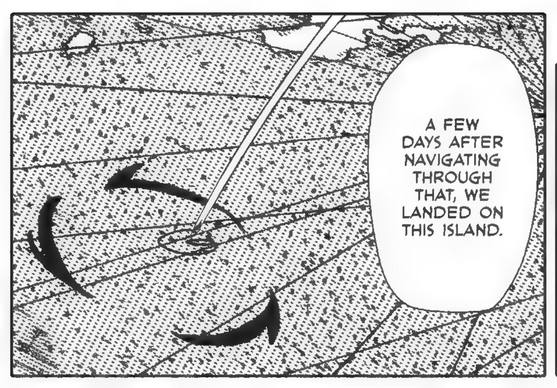

...
THEY ARE...
...BIG.


THEY'RE THE BIGGEST I HAVE EVER SEEN.

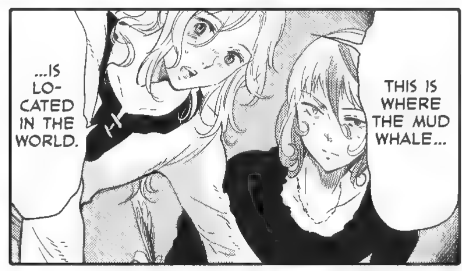

THE WORLD ...
HAHA...
...IS A BIG PLACE.

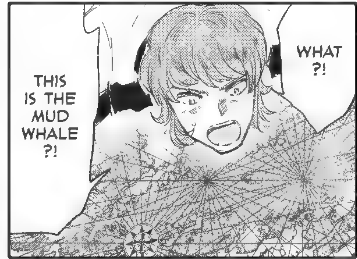


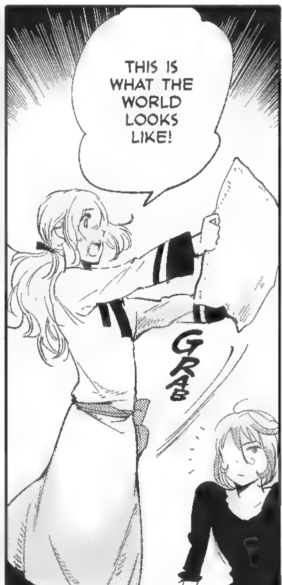

THE IS OUR NAUTICAL CHART.
NAUTICAL CHART?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND HOW TO USE IT.
IT SHOWS HOW THE SEA WORKS.
SNORT ...
YOU REALLY ARE IGNORANT FLEAS.
THIS IS THE UNITED KINGDOM OF SUIDELASIA...
...WHERE AMONLOGIA IS LOCATED.
OUR SHIP...
...SET SAIL WEST ON THE SEA OF SAND.

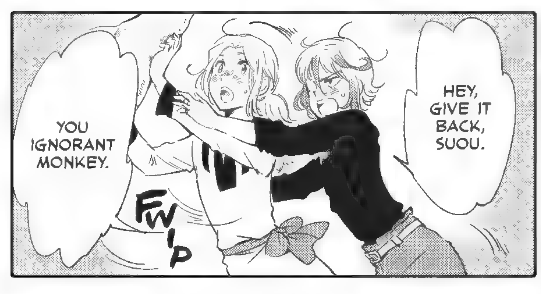

A FEW DAYS AFTER NAVIGATING THROUGH THAT, WE LANDED ON THIS ISLAND.


WE GOT SUCKED INTO A STRANGE CURRENT HERE...
...AND WERE ALMOST SHIP-WRECKED.


THIS IS WHERE THE MUD WHALE...
...IS LO-CATED IN THE WORLD.

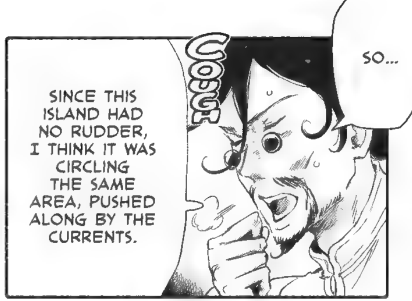

WHAT ?!
THIS IS THE MUD WHALE ?!


THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD LOOKS LIKE!
GRAB


HEY, GIVE IT BACK, SUOU.
YOU IGNORANT MONKEY.
FWIP


OH, I'M SO GLAD SIR ROCHALÍZO HAS FOUND A FRIEND...
QUIT HORSING AROUND, YOU BRATS!!


HOW DARE YOU CALL SIR ROCHA-LÍZO A BRAT!
SHAKE
SHAKE


SO...
COUGH
SINCE THIS ISLAND HAD NO RUDDER, I THINK IT WAS CIRCLING THE SAME AREA, PUSHED ALONG BY THE CURRENTS.

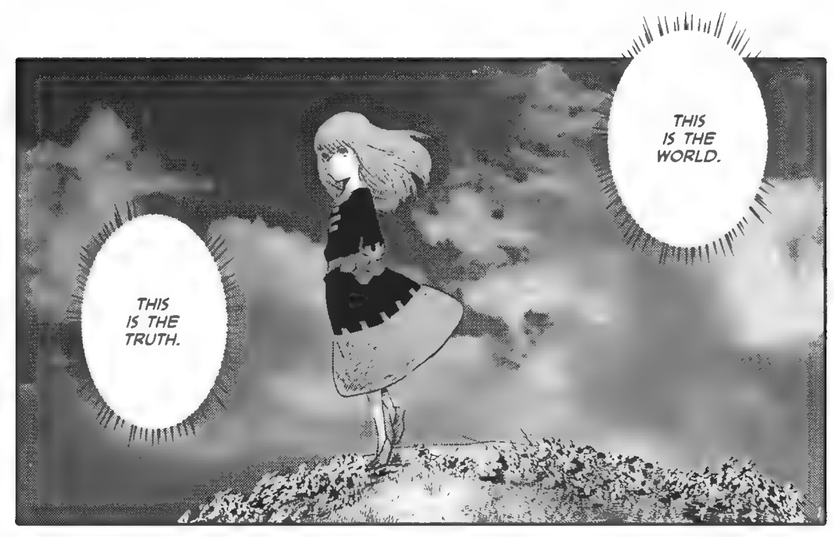

A SUIDE-LASIAN SHIP HAS *NEVER*...
...GOTTEN BEYOND THIS CURRENT.


IT IS A DEMON CURRENT NO ONE COULD GO NEAR...
...BUT WE PERFORMED A MIRACULOUS FEAT AND FOUND THIS ISLAND!

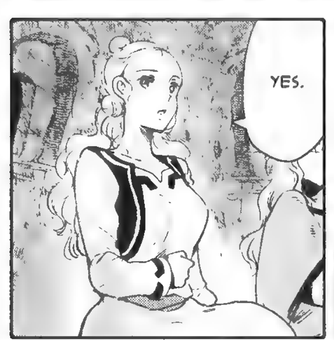

HMM.
SO, UNTIL NOW, THE IM-PERIAL NOUS SHIPS...
...WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD GO BEYOND THE CURRENT.
BECAUSE OF THIS CURRENT, NO ONE ELSE COULD FIND US...
...AND OUR RUDDERLESS MUD WHALE COULDN'T GO ANYWHERE.

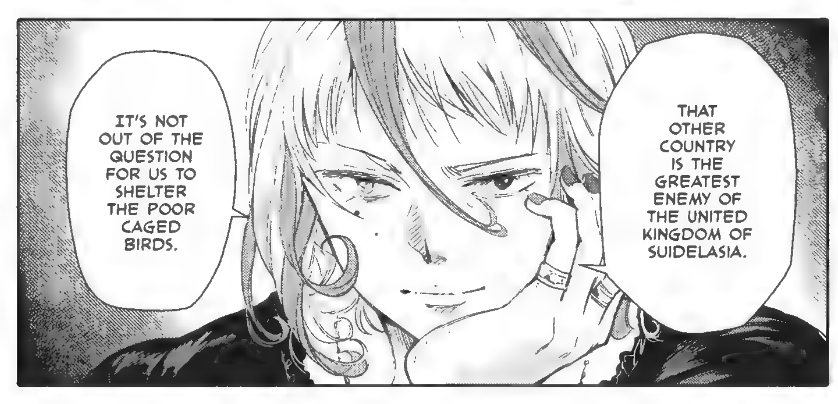

WE WERE BIRDS IN A CAGE.


THE SEA WAS A NATURAL PRISON.

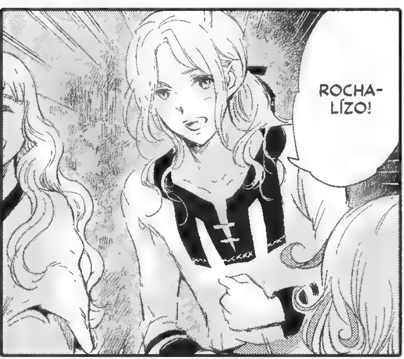

THIS IS THE WORLD.
THIS IS THE TRUTH.

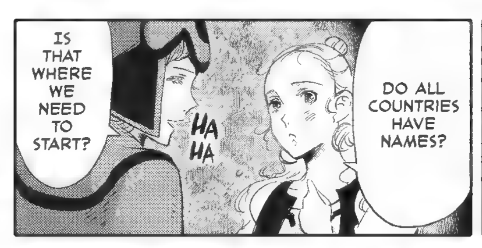

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU WERE ATTACKED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR THE CRIMES OF YOUR ANCESTORS...
...AND WERE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION.


YES.


THAT OTHER COUNTRY IS THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF SUIDELASIA.
IT'S NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR US TO SHELTER THE POOR CAGED BIRDS.

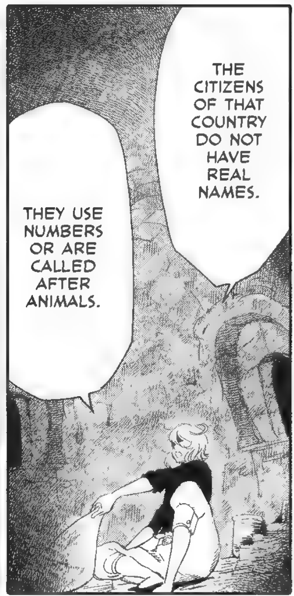

THAT OTHER COUNTRY IS FARTHER WEST ON THE SEA OF SAND.


ROCHA-LÍZO!


IS THAT WHERE WE NEED TO START?
HA HA
DO ALL COUNTRIES HAVE NAMES?


NO NAME?
IT'S AN ODD COUNTRY WITHOUT A NAME.


NO ONE KNOWS WHY.
IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEIR RELIGION.


THE CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTRY DO NOT HAVE REAL NAMES.
THEY USE NUMBERS OR ARE CALLED AFTER ANIMALS.



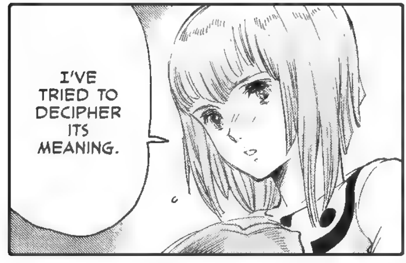


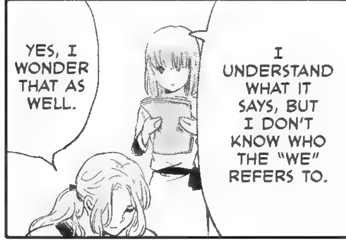
...THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD WAITING FOR YOU THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.

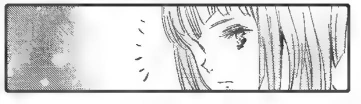

We sang the mysterious song of our dreams...
...twice a day at dawn and dusk, and prayed in the direction the Mud Whale should go.
We knew this prayer was the power needed to propel the Mud Whale.
We pale at the vast ocean become gloomy and dark...
...we shine like the scales of a snowy sky.
We stand inside you and jump beside you.
MAYOR SUOU, IT'S "RUN BESIDE YOU."


THE SONG THAT THE MARKED ARE SINGING...
I'VE WRITTEN DOWN ALL THE LYRICS.


WELL DONE, ARCHIVIST IN TRAINING.
GOOD JOB, MIRU.


I'VE TRIED TO DECIPHER ITS MEANING.

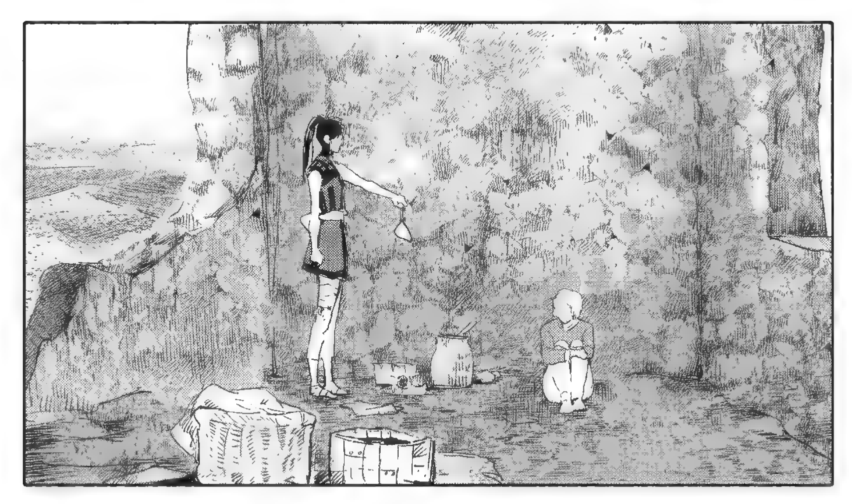

I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT SAYS, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO THE "WE" REFERS TO.
YES, I WONDER THAT AS WELL.

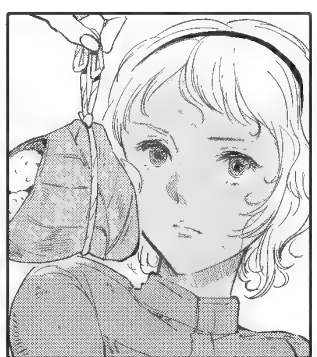



YOUR HERB GARDEN...
...SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED WELL FROM THE ATTACK.


I RECEIVED THIS PLOT OF LAND FROM THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS EIGHT YEARS AGO.
SINCE THEN I HAVE CONTINUOUSLY EXPERIMENTED WITH MEDICINES, HOPING TO FIND A REMEDY FOR THE MARKED'S SHORT LIVES.

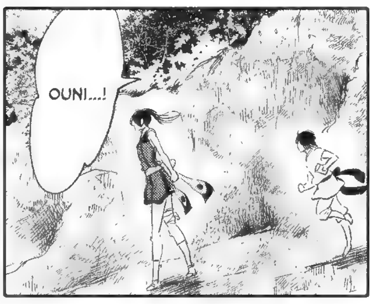

WAS THERE A PLAGUE ON THE ISLAND?
OR DID ALL THE ADULTS DIE IN THE ATTACK?
AS I SAID...
...THE MARKED ARE SHORT-LIVED, SO THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY YOUNG ONES.
...
THE SOLDIERS OF THAT UNNAMED COUNTRY HAVE THE SAME POWERS USED ON THIS ISLAND.
BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD THAT THEY ARE SHORT-LIVED.
FOR THAT MATTER, WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OTHER POPULATION THAT IS SHORT-LIVED LIKE THEM.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND...
WHO ARE THEY?
...





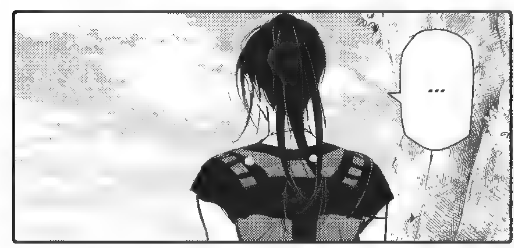





OUNI...!


I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HERE YOU GO.


NO THANKS.
IT'S PRETTY TERRIBLE.

IT'S THE FORTIFYING DRINK SUOU MADE.

...

BESIDES, I'M ALL BETTER NOW.
REALLY?

WHAT IS IT?
YOU'RE NOT REALLY BETTER, ARE YOU?

...

GIVE THE MAYOR A MESSAGE FROM ME.

OUNI ...
SHUT UP.
QUIT HANGING AROUND ME.

I CAN'T USE MY THYMIA ANYMORE.

WHAT?

I TRIED A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT IT WON'T WORK.



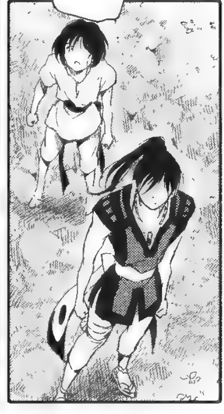


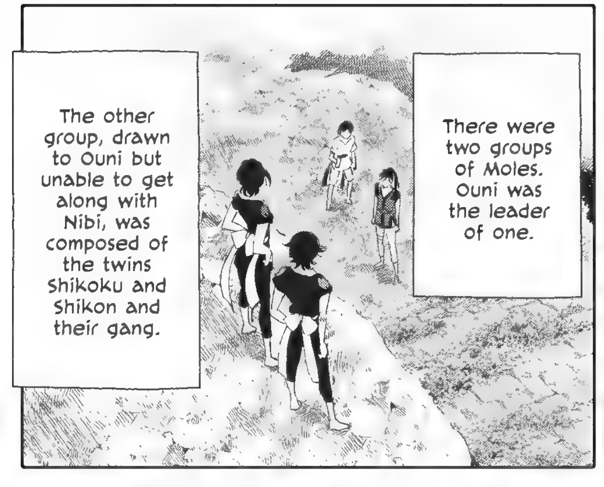

...FOR YOU...
THAT WOULD BE NICE...
HMPH
OUNI...


IT MIGHT BE TEMPORARY.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW THAT IT WON'T COME BACK.


YOU'VE BECOME SO VERY PATHETIC.


WHAT'S THE MATTER, OUNI?




There were two groups of Moles. Ouni was the leader of one.
The other group, drawn to Ouni but unable to get along with Nibi, was composed of the twins Shikoku and Shikon and their gang.


SHIKOKU, SHIKON...

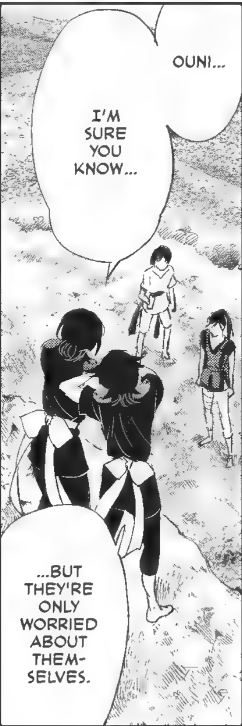
HAVING LAZY BRATS LIKE THAT SUCK UP TO YOU...
HAVING THE MAYOR DEPEND ON YOU...
BEING NICE TO THAT FEMALE PRISONER...
DO YOU ENJOY...
...THAT SORT OF THING?
HAVE YOU CRACKED NOW THAT NIBI'S GONE?
DO YOU NEED A REPLACE-MENT?
YOU KNOW...
...HE WASN'T TOUGH ENOUGH ANYWAY.



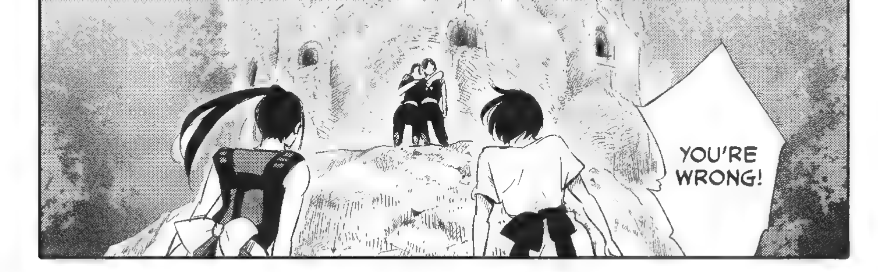

OOH, SCARY!
BUT YOU CAN'T USE YOUR THYMIA NOW.
WE JUST HEARD.


HEY, QUIT HANGING OUT WITH THOSE GUYS...
...AND COME BACK TO US.


THEN YOUR PATHETICNESS AND YOUR LOST THYMIA WILL BOTH BE CURED.
THERE'S SOMETHING WE WANT TO DO.


OUNI...
I'M SURE YOU KNOW...
...BUT THEY'RE ONLY WORRIED ABOUT THEMSELVES.


THEY JUST WANT YOU FOR YOUR THYMIA.



I AND EVERYBODY ELSE...

...DON'T JUST VALUE OUNI'S THYMIA...

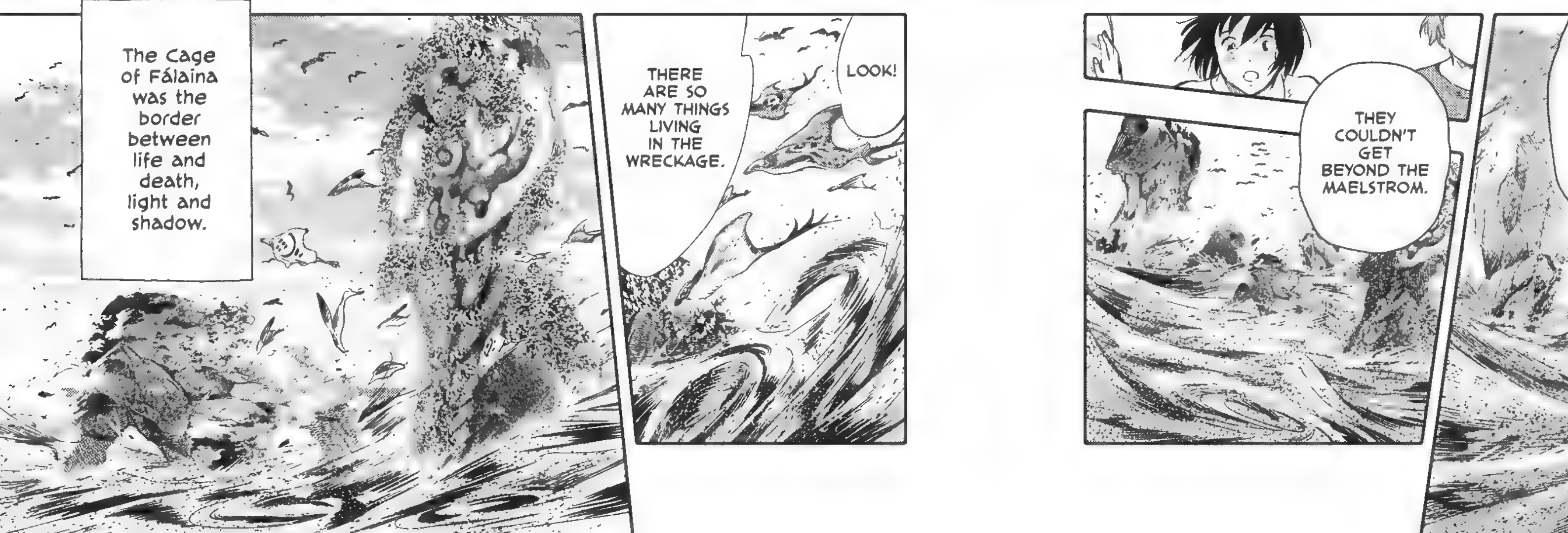
WE VALUE OUNI!

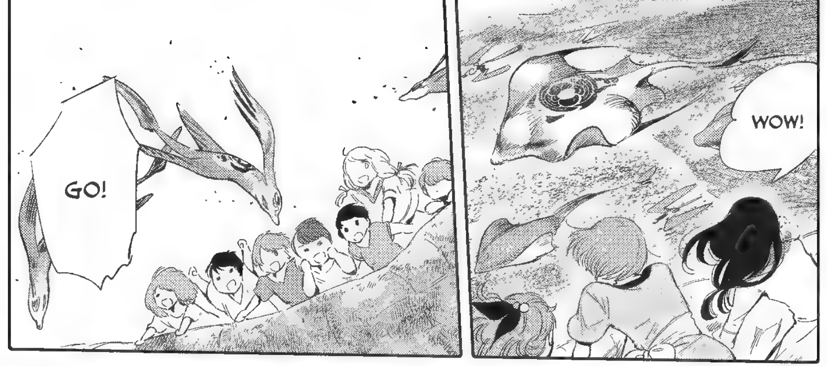
WE VALUE THE OUNI WHO SAVED US EVEN THOUGH HE LOST LOTS OF PRECIOUS FRIENDS.

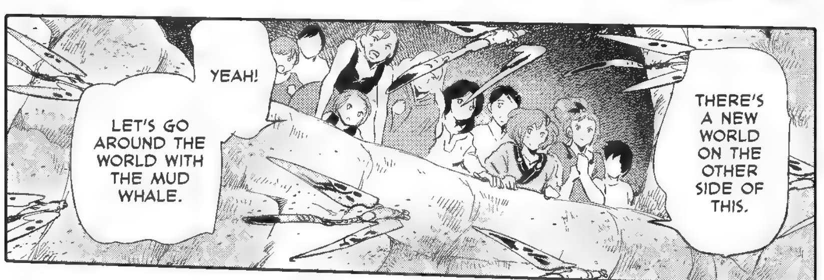



...
WHAT-EVER.
Eventually the darkness in the twins...
...would spark a rift of the like never before seen on the Mud Whale.
I STILL DON'T WANT THAT.
It's awful.
FWIP
OUNI, LET'S GO TOGETHER...
...WITH...
...NIBI AND SAMI...
...IN OUR HEARTS.


LET'S GO SEE THE WORLD!
Month 8, day 16, year 93 of the sand exile...
Twelve days since the guests from Amonlogia came ashore.
The Mud Whale has encountered the extreme current known in the empire as the *Cage of Fálaina.*
WHAT ...
WHAT *IS* THAT?


The Cage of Fálaina was the border between life and death, light and shadow.
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS LIVING IN THE WRECKAGE.
LOOK!
THEY COULDN'T GET BEYOND THE MAELSTROM.
IT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF ALL THE OTHER FLOATING ISLANDS THAT HAVE MET WITH THIS CURRENT!





AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE MISSED OUT ON...

...I'LL SPEND MY LIFE...

...GOING TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH ON THIS ISLAND!

The people of the Mud Whale are finally...

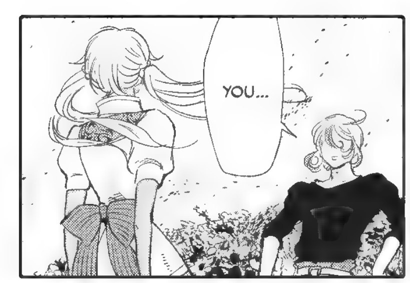
...leaving this prison of sand that the empire built a hundred years ago.

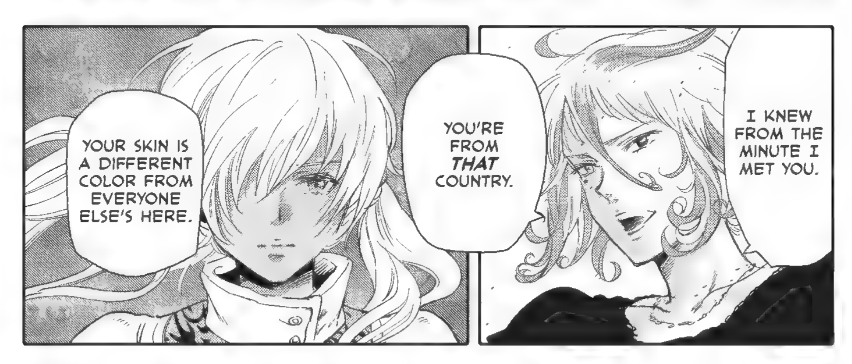








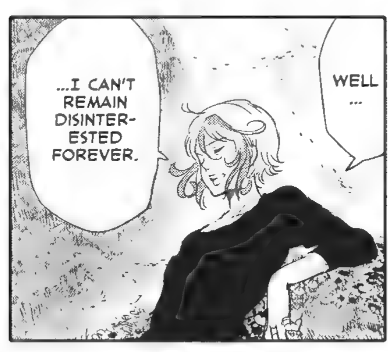

YOU...

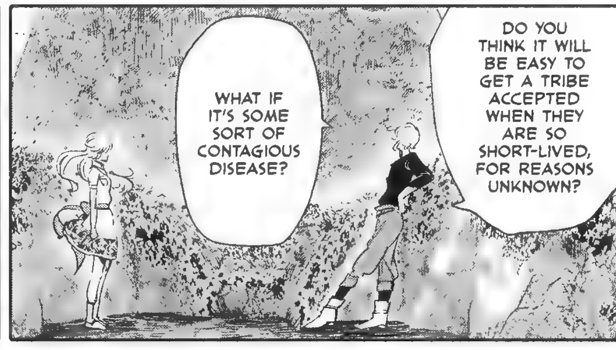
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

I KNEW FROM THE MINUTE I MET YOU.
YOU'RE FROM *THAT* COUNTRY.
YOUR SKIN IS A DIFFERENT COLOR FROM EVERYONE ELSE'S HERE.

DON'T TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND ABOUT THEIR LIFE EXPECTANCY.
DON'T PUSH THEM ABOUT THEIR IDENTITY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT AT A TIME LIKE THIS? TELL ME.

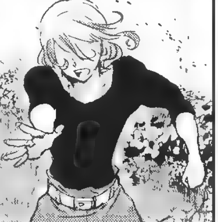

DON'T MENTION IT UNTIL YOU REACH YOUR COUNTRY.

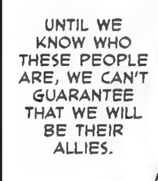

WELL ...
...I CAN'T REMAIN DISINTER-ESTED FOREVER.


DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE EASY TO GET A TRIBE ACCEPTED WHEN THEY ARE SO SHORT-LIVED, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN?
WHAT IF IT'S SOME SORT OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE?


IT ISN'T.


IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PEOPLE.
IF YOU KNOW, THEN TELL ME.


UNTIL WE KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE, WE CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL BE THEIR ALLIES.




...




IT'S CAUSED...
...BY THE MUD WHALE.

AN ORGANISM CALLED A NOUS IS WHAT MAKES THIS SHIP AND THE EMPIRE'S SHIPS FLOAT ON THE SAND.
IN MY COUNTRY, WE GIVE THE NOUSES OUR EMOTIONS...
...AND THE NOUSES GIVE US THE POWER OF THYMIA.
THOSE PEOPLE ARE CALLED THE MARKED.
BUT FÁLAINA... THE NOUS ON THIS ISLAND HAS A DIFFERENT ROLE.
FÁLAINA DOESN'T EAT EMOTIONS.


WHAT FEEDS THE THYMIA AND MAKES THIS ISLAND FLOAT...
...ARE THE LIVES OF THE MARKED...
...WHO DWELL...
...ON THE MUD WHALE.


IT WAS THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIMINALS OF FÁLAINA.
THEIR DESCENDANTS DOOMED TO LIVE SHORT LIVES...
...IN THE SHADOW OF THE FEAR OF DEATH.
BEYOND OUTSIDE HELP...
...WITH NOWHERE TO RUN...
...IN A CURSED CAGE THAT DEVOURS THEIR VERY LIVES...
THAT IS THIS ISLAND.
CRACK
GASP





IN TRUTH...

...I HAD...

...STARTED...

AROUND 30, THEIR THYMIA AND THEIR BODIES START TO BREAK DOWN.

SOME BECOME BEDRIDDEN.

ISN'T IT LIKE THAT WHERE YOU'RE FROM?

NO, THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

...TO FIGURE IT OUT MYSELF.


YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY YOU ARE SHORT-LIVED.
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW...
...SO I HAD AVOIDED IT.
THUD
POP
OH!


FWA
The island had always been everything to us.
It was our entire world.
KYA HA HA HA HA HA
I loved it, no matter how small it was.
Our Mud Whale.


Living here...
...was our curse.
The Sun Sets on 93 Years -The End-




THE SONG OF PRAYER
The dreams that the Marked who power the Mud Whale had were are all slightly different, and there was a lot of variety. For instance, the girl who enters the ear and sings and dances can be like petals turning, insects speaking, darkness, or just words.
But everyone remembers the same lyrics and choreography. Beyond this dream of the song of prayer, there have been other instances where several people had the same dream at the same time. But it was extremely unusual for it to happen to the entire Marked community.
On the following pages is a bonus manga called "The Ballad of the Archivist." It's a short eight-page story that I wrote while the current work was on hiatus. It's the story of a certain character who could have an important role in the future.